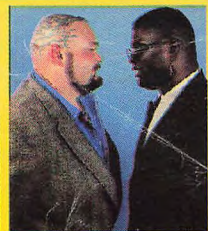


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YOUR LETTERS

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Even if the Steiners return to WCW, tag team wrestling still won't be in good shape, writes Bruce Gray. He'd like to see The Freebirds and other great duos from the 1980s come back, too.

TAG TEAM ANSWERS

It has been said many times in this magazine that tag team wrestling is on the decline; that much is obvious. It was also written that it would take the return of Rick and Scott Steiner to revitalize the tag team scene. I disagree with this, to an extent. I believe it would take a lot more than the Steiners to bring the

quality of tag team wrestling back up to what it used to be. We need other top-notch teams such as The Road Warriors, The Freebirds, The Midnight Express, and others from the 1980s. Bring back these top-rated teams, and the quality of wrestling is sure to rise again.

BRUCE GRAY
Orlando, FL

THIRTY-DAY BLUES

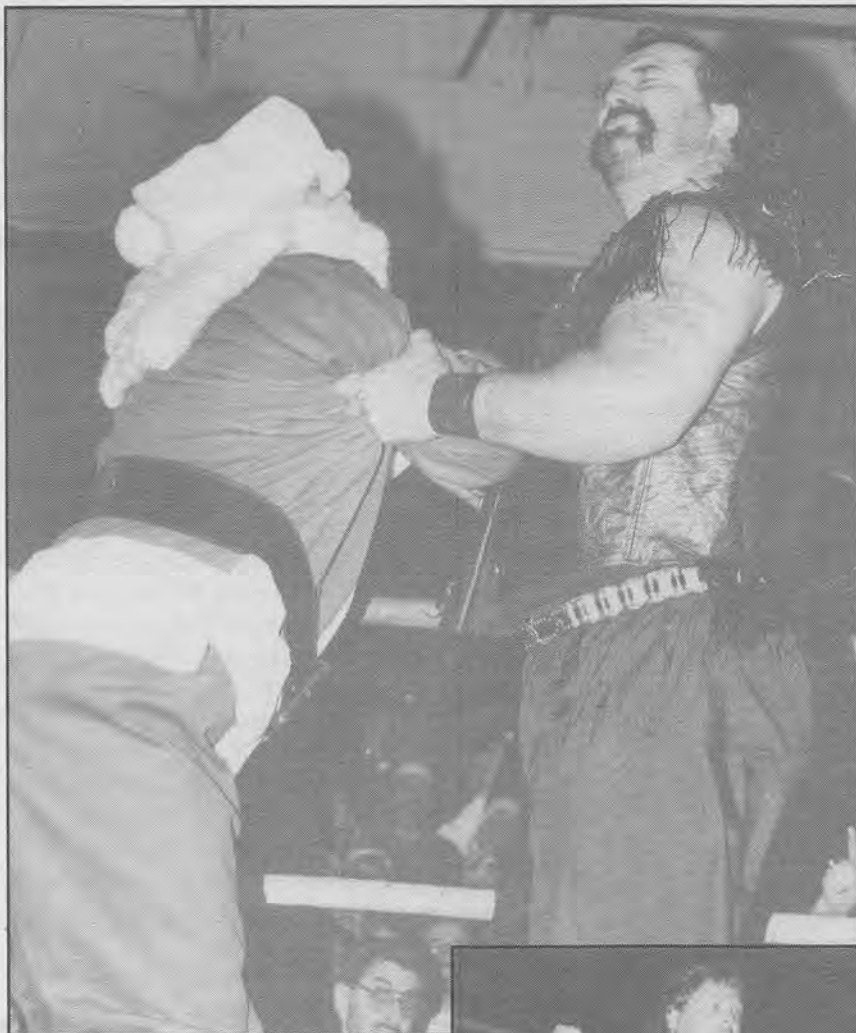
Why hasn't Hulk Hogan been stripped of the WCW World title yet? Doesn't the rule that states a champion must defend his title every 30 days still stand in WCW? If it no longer exists, that would explain why Hogan's title defenses are so few and far between. The fans have to give Harlem Heat and Arn Anderson their respect, regardless of whether they actually like them, because they are always on television defending their titles against top-notch competition. Even if that 30-day rule is non-existent, those men still get out there and give the fans the good title matches they want to see.

I am sure that Big Van Vader would defend the WCW World title more frequently if he wasn't having such a hard time chasing down Hogan. Hogan's the prime example of a closet champion, if I ever saw one. Hogan, if you can't take time out from your busy schedule to wrestle someone worthy of a title shot at least once a month, maybe you should relinquish the belt and ask WCW to create a pay-per-view title for you to hold.

JAMAR GRAY
Wedgfield, SC

CHRISTMAS IN JULY?

I can't agree with your giving 911 a "Thumbs Down" (April 1995) for choke-slammng Santa Claus at an ECW event. You whined about 911 frightening "millions of children." Stupid question time: What on



911 shouldn't be condemned for choke-slammimg Santa Claus unless Dave Sullivan is also ripped for dressing as Santa and attacking his brother Kevin, argues Harry Simon.

Earth are "millions of children" doing watching ultraviolent ECW cards in the first place?

How about a little slap on the wrist for Dave Sullivan, who dressed up as Santa at Starrcade '94 and attacked Kevin Sullivan with a megaphone? Since Dave is a lovable fan favorite, and Kevin is a hated rulebreaker, this tells kids that Santa condones violence, and jumping people from behind with dangerous weapons is okay. Need I mention that WCW's premier pay-per-view of the year was undoubtedly viewed by more children than the ECW event? I weep for the future.

So Santa Claus has invaded

wrestling. Four words: Thank God I'm Jewish!

HARRY SIMON
Las Vegas, NV

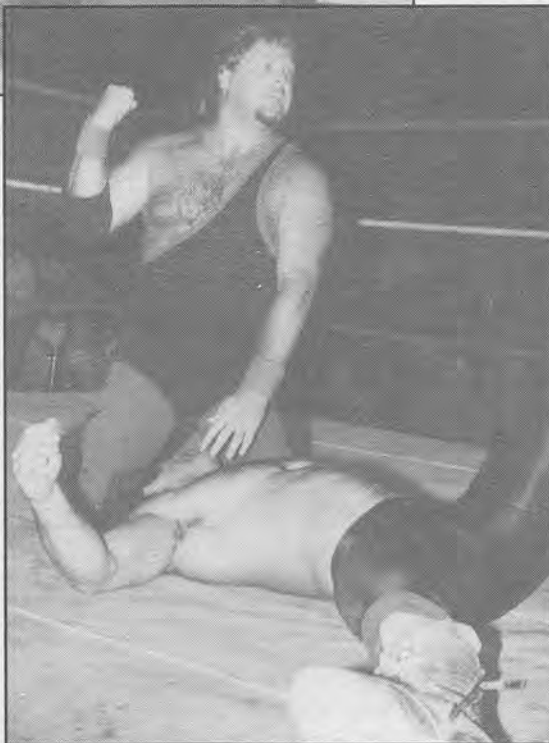
COME HOME, "KING"

Disgust is the first word that comes to mind when I think about Jerry Lawler. I have been a lifelong fan of "The King," but his actions in the WWF are absolutely ridiculous. I have seen him beat the best wrestlers in the world, including those clowns in the WWF when they were in Memphis. I am not referring to the matches in the past two years with idiots like Doink—I mean back when today's megastars passed through Memphis on their road to stardom. Are we to believe that the wrestlers of the WWF are better than Hulk Hogan, Curt Hennig, and Jeff Jarrett were years ago?

What happened to the true "King" of wrestling? His recent actions have been absolutely pathetic. He wasted his time feuding with "Dork" the Clown. Then he was tossed across the ring by William "Captain Kirk" Shatner. Give me a break!

Lawler, come back to Memphis for good, where you'll get the respect you deserve.

ZACK BRANCH
Memphis, TN



Jerry Lawler has defeated dozens of great wrestlers, including Rick Rude, when they challenged him in Memphis. Reader Zack Branch would like to see "The King" return to his hometown full-time.

YOUTH MOVEMENT

I think the WWF has made a good choice in trying to sign younger wrestlers for the future, rather than depending on the older wrestlers like Hulk Hogan, Randy Savage, and Hacksaw Duggan. These guys made money for the WWF in the 1980s, but I think they've lost their appeal. How many times do you want to

(Continued on page 54)

WHAT'S HAPPENING

By Bill Apter

JAKE ROBERTS HAS announced his retirement from wrestling and says he will devote most of his time to speaking to children and others "in need of salvation from God." Roberts, 39, wrestled his final match in February against **Helmut Hessler**. "I just wasn't happy out there on the road," he added. Roberts converted to Christianity two years ago.

The big furor over the main event at WCW Uncensored still has not died down. Thousands of fans protested that the strap match between World champion **Hulk Hogan** and **Big Van Vader** should not have been allowed to end the way it did. If you recall, Hulk dragged an interfering **Ric Flair** around the ring and touched all four corners, the time-keeper rang the bell, and Hogan was declared the victor. The procedure to win was correct; problem is Hogan beat the wrong man! He never beat Vader, who was his opponent! WCW officials copped out big-time. "We never sanctioned the event," one executive told me. "It was out of our hands."

On that same card, **The Renegade**, an **Ultimate Warrior** clone, made his first appearance



Tired of spending so much time on the road, Jake Roberts has announced his retirement. He plans to spend more time with his family and speak to spread the Word of God.

in WCW. He chased Flair away from ringside several times. A mysterious masked man, who was later revealed to be **Arn Anderson**, also tried to get involved.

"The Renegade is all about raw power," said Hogan. "He'll help 'Hulkamania' run wild all over WCW, dudes!"

Knowing they would have to leave the USWA for five years if they lost, **PG-13—Wolfie D** and **J.C. Ice**—pulled out a cage match victory over tag team champions **Doug Gilbert** and **Tommy Rich** recently. "We love the USWA!" Wolfie D screamed right after the match.

"We are here to stay!" an enthusiastic J.C. Ice added. By the way, Wolfie's dad has been getting involved in the action, too. **Father D** and Wolfie D got some assistance from **Mabel**, of **Men on a Mission**, in their victory over Gilbert, Rich, and **Gorgeous George III** a week later. Wolfie D and J.C. Ice did suffer a setback of sorts a week before they claimed the belts; they lost a hair vs. hair match to Rich and Gorgeous George III and were shaved completely bald!

The Undertaker has agreed to make several appearances in Smoky Mountain Wrestling to help **Bob Armstrong**, **Tracey Smothers**, and **Jim Cornette** in their feud against **The Gangstas**. "It's real simple,"



PG-13—J.C. Ice and Wolfie D (with Wolfie's mother)—finally regained the USWA tag team title from Doug Gilbert and Tommy Rich. Had they lost to that team, they would have had to leave the USWA for five years.

Rock 'n' Roll Training School for aspiring pro wrestlers. The school is located in East Knoxville, Tennessee ... **Miguel Perez Jr.** has started wrestling in the WWF ... **2 Cold Scorpio** is the new Extreme Championship Wrestling TV champion by virtue of a win over **Dean Malenko**. Scorpio calls Malenko "one of the toughest and most professional athletes in the sport." Scorpio is also looking for a shot at **Bruiser Bedlam's** Midwest Territorial heavyweight championship ... East Coast Professional Wrestling heavyweight champion **Gino Caruso** is still being chased by ex-champion **Kodiak Bear**. Caruso won the belt in Belleville, New Jersey, in March.

The new Ozark Mountain Wrestling champion **Cactus Jack** and **Freddie Fargo**, his manager in OMW are making life miserable for former champion **The Colorado Kid**. They double-teamed Kid during a match leading up to the title change and caused him seri-

(Continued on page 52)

explained Armstrong. "We need a powerful outside source to teach these guys a lesson. They have run roughshod over everyone with their dirty tactics and dirty mouths. Undertaker is someone they will fear the moment they see him in the opposite corner."

Another very interesting side note in this scenario is that **Paul Bearer** and **Jim Cornette**, sworn enemies in the WWF for several years, will both be at ringside ... on the same team! "When you have such scum like The Gangstas terrorizing people, people like Bearer and I can put our differences aside, at least for the time being," said Cornette. The Gangstas brought **Killer Kyle** back to SMW, by the way, and made him an honorary Gangsta.

Robert Gibson of **The Rock 'n' Roll Express** has opened The

STEVE ANDERSON'S VIEW



NO HOLDS BARRERED

with David Rosenbaum

RIC FLAIR CAN say whatever he wants—and he certainly did in his “One On One” with Hulk Hogan in the July 1995 issue of *Inside Wrestling*—but there’s absolutely no doubting his plans or intentions.

On March 19, the day Michael Jordan returned to the NBA, Ric Flair returned to WCW. Any other interpretation of Flair’s presence at the WCW Uncensored pay-per-view is completely without merit. After all, Hulk Hogan won the main event, a leather strap match against Big Van Vader, when he dragged Flair to all four corners of the ring.

For fans of the “Nature Boy,” it should have been a great moment, every bit as sublime as Jordan’s first basket in his comeback. But while Jordan’s comeback was to be celebrated, Flair’s was bemoaned by even his closest friends and biggest fans.

WCW commentator Bobby Heenan, speaking on the Uncensored broadcast, told viewers, “This is not the Ric Flair I know.” He repeated that sentence a few more times during the night and added, “This is a shame. This is sad.”

What saddened Heenan the most was seeing Flair dressed like a woman and interfering in Randy



When Ric Flair dressed like a woman and interfered in the Randy Savage-Avalanche match at WCW Uncensored, it showed just how crazy retirement has made the “Nature Boy.”

Savage’s match against Avalanche. He cross-dressed convincingly, I might add. The makeup and hair were perfect, and Flair walked a little too perfectly in high heels. I have known some women who couldn’t walk so confidently in spikes.

I wonder what Flair does in his spare time, of which he presumably has a lot these days.

Flair beat up on Savage, then was

in Vader’s corner for the Hogan match. Anything but an innocent bystander, Flair stalked Hogan from the opening bell and interfered generously. Why didn’t someone try to do something to stop Flair’s interference?

Because “It’s Uncensored!” as obnoxious broadcaster Tony Schiavone shouted about a million

(Continued on page 55)

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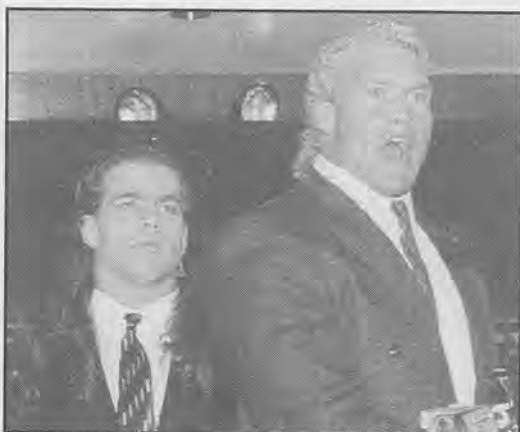
IT ISN'T SURPRISING that Sid Vicious is now calling himself "Psycho" Sid. The name suits him. What is surprising is that he would want to be a bodyguard for anyone.

Vicious is, by anyone's accounting, one of the most formidable and intimidating athletes in the sport right now. He is ready for a run at the WWF World title. He is not an incredibly skilled wrestler, but how many World title contenders are these days? But instead of pursuing the gold, he is acting as a human wall for Shawn Michaels. It doesn't seem like a job suited to a man of his temperament, but his supporters insist he has good reasons for doing it.

"First of all, Michaels is paying him pretty damn well," said Jerry Lawler. "I was shocked by the figure Sid gave me. Second, Sid thinks this will be a good way to scout out the competition in the WWF, especially all the newer people."

Those aren't terrible reasons to want to be a bodyguard. Here's another one: Michaels' previous "aide" was a fellow named Diesel. You know him; at press time, he was the reigning WWF World champion. If Vicious is trying to follow that example, his move makes a lot more sense.

"Naturally, Sid can look at Diesel and be encouraged," said Barry Windham, who was once part of The Four Horsemen with Vicious. "Diesel has what Sid—what everybody—wants. But Sid isn't interested in following anybody else's lead. He's setting his own path. He isn't looking for any examples to follow."



Shawn Michaels & "Psycho" Sid

That sounds like Vicious, which is why it's so surprising to see him as a number two to Michaels. Yes, he's making serious cash and seeing new opponents, but he's also submerging his will to that of Michaels. Hardly the attitude of an independent thinker.

Lawler feuded with Vicious for months in the USWA, then recently formed an alliance with him. He insists what Vicious is doing shouldn't shock anyone.

"You have to remember that this is a very cold, calculating man," the WWF broadcaster/wrestler said. "He might look out of control sometimes, but he usually knows exactly what he's doing. If he didn't think being

with Michaels was in his best interests, then he wouldn't be there.

"Remember, too," Lawler added, "that most so-called bodyguards in this sport eventually turn against their employers. Diesel got tired of being under Michaels' thumb, so he took a hike. I can't imagine that Sid will put up with too much of Shawn's guff, no matter how much Shawn is paying him."

Maybe then it does make sense from Vicious' point of view. Then why is Michaels taking such a chance, when Vicious can burn him just as easily as Diesel did?

"Shawn knows his risks, absolutely," said Jim Cornette, who has made no secret of the fact that he gets a little nervous when Sid is around. "He knows this guy may turn against him at the drop of a hat. But Shawn thinks these are the kinds of risks he has to take if he's going to win the World title and hold on to it for a while. Having a mountain like Sid in his corner is really going to help him in the short run, and the short run might be all that matters."

Marty Jannetty appreciates that sort of thinking. Michaels' says his ex-partner relishes taking such risks. He cautions, though, that Vicious should be equally wary of Michaels.

"Knowing Shawn," Jannetty said, "he probably promised Vicious the sun and the moon. Shawn's a great talker, and all he's doing is using Vicious. If Vicious realizes that, that's cool. If he realizes it too late, Shawn'll cut him up into little pieces."

Which prompts the question again: What the heck is Vicious doing?

Being "Psycho" Sid.



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ECW TV TAPE #9 • Features 4 hours of action
Chris Benoit vs. Tazmaniac, Public Enemy vs. Bad Breed (bat match blood bath), Dreamer vs. Cairo (wild brawl all over arena BLOODY), Sandman Press Conference, Douglas vs. Ron Simmons, Cactus Jack & Mikey vs. Public Enemy (bat match title change) Sabu vs. Chris Benoit, Sabu almost breaks his neck PLUS Scorpio, Woman, Sandman, Paul E. Dreamer, and all the stars of ECW.

ECW TV TAPE #10 • Features 4 hours of action
Brian Pillman & Douglas vs. Scorpio & Simmons, Dean Malenko vs. Scorpio (title change), Jason vs. Scorpio, Sabu & Taz vs. Malenko & Public Enemy interfere, Cactus Jack vs. Kevin Sullivan WLD!!!, Sandman vs. Dreamer (blood bath) PLUS Douglas, JT Smith, Sabu, Public Enemy, and all the stars of ECW.

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Bob Armstrong vs. Dick Murdoch • Bodies vs. Fumas Brothers, DWB vs. Brian Lee, Smothers vs. Candito, Bodies attack Paul Morton, DWB vs. Killer Kyle, Candito vs. Spicoli PLUS The Moon Dogs, Jim Cornette, Terry Funk, Smothers, Tammy Fytch and all the stars of SMW.

SMW TV #2 FEB 1994 Features 4 Hours

Terry Funk vs. Bullet, DWB vs. Brian Lee (chain match), R & RX vs. Heavenly Bodies, Bodies & Killer Dyle vs. R & RX & Bobby Blaze Bloody, Press Conference with Thrill Seekers PLUS Moon Dogs, Doug Fumas, Candito, Tammy Fytch, Jim Cornette, Dutch Mantel, Bruise Brothers, Well Dunn and all the stars of SMW.

SMW TV #3 MARCH 1994 Features 4 Hours

DWS vs. Hornet, Tom Prichard vs. Tracey Smothers, R & RX vs. Well Dunn, Jim Cornette vs. Armstrong, R & R vs. Bodies (looser leaves town), Smothers vs. Bedlam, Morton vs. Brian Lee, Well Dunn vs. Thrill Seekers PLUS Blaze, DWB, Thrill Seekers, Jake Roberts, Well Dunn, Tammy, Van Horn, and all the stars of SMW.

SMW TV #4 APRIL 1994 Features over 4 Hours

R & RX gets jumped by Lee & Candito, Lee & Candito vs. R & RX, Bruiser Bedlam & Jim Cornette vs. Armstrong, R & RX vs. Bodies (looser leaves town), Smothers vs. Bedlam, Morton vs. Brian Lee, Well Dunn vs. Thrill Seekers PLUS Blaze, DWB, Thrill Seekers, Jake Roberts, Well Dunn, Tammy, Van Horn, and all the stars of SMW.

SMW TV #5 MAY 1994 Features over 4 Hours

Bruiser Bedlam vs. Smothers (bloody), Lee & Candito, Lee & Candito vs. R & RX title change, Candito vs. Bambi Morton, Jake Roberts jumps DWB, Thrill Seekers vs. Well Dunn, Jake Roberts vs. DWB (title change), Randy Savage vs. Bedlam, Candito vs. Morton everyone comes in PLUS Armstrong, Tammy, Candito, R & RX & Bedlam, Dory Funk and all the stars of SMW.

SMW TV #6 JUNE 1994 Features...

Blaze & Fumas vs. Lee & Candito, Smothers vs. Ninja, Well Dunn vs. Seekers, R & RX surprise Tammy with Bambi, DWB vs. Ninja (Jake Roberts interferes), Jake & DWB brawl, Smothers gets attacked by DWB PLUS Armstrongs, Candito, Lee, Cornette, R & RX, Thrill Seekers and all the stars of SMW.

SMW TV #7 JULY 1994 Features...

Smothers vs. Killer Kyle, Jake, DDTs, Bambi and DWB saves her, R & RX and Bambi vs. Lee and Candito & Tammy, Funks vs. Armstrongs, Bodies jump Thrill Seekers in parking lot, Smothers vs. Brian Lee, Gangstas debut PLUS Terry Gordy, Thrill Seekers, Bodies, Cornette and all the other stars of SMW.

SMW TV #8 AUGUST 1994 Features...

Lee & Candito vs. Armstrongs, Slater & Orton vs. Stomper & R. Garvin, Bodies vs. Thrill Seekers-Bloodiest match ever, R & RX vs. Lee & Candito (hair match), R & RX vs. Lee & Candito (title change) Lee turns on Candito, DWB vs. Killer Kyle, Candito vs. Lance Storm, R & RX vs. Bodies PLUS Gangstas, Bedlam, Chris Walker and all the other stars of SMW.

SMW TV #9 SEPT 1994 Features...

Gangstas vs. R & RX (R&RX get injured), R & RX vs. Gangstas re-match) Parking lot brawl with R & RX & Gangstas, Lance Storm vs. Boo Bradley, Brian Lee & Lance Storm vs. Candito & Boo Bradley, Gangstas hang Ricky Morton, Bedlam & Killer Kyle vs. Smothers & Armstrong PLUS tons of other matches with all the SMW stars.

SMW TV #10 OCT 1994 Features...

Boo Bradley vs. Lee, DWB & Bedlam Brawl, Ole Anderson and Bryant Anderson debut, Cactus Jack debut, Gangstas vs. R & RX, New Jack vs. Robert Bibson, Cactus Jack vs. Austin, Gangstas vs. R & RX barroom brawl, DWB vs. Bedlam (whipping match) Abby Video, Cactus & Boo Bradley Brawl, R & RX vs. Gangstas bloody brawl PLUS other matches with all the stars of SMW.

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SMW TV #11 NOV 1994 Features...

Bryant Anderson and Smothers confrontation, Gangstas vs. Brian Lee & Lance Storm wild brawl, Cornette & Armstrong argue, Cactus Jack feud clips, Cornette & Bedlam training video, Jim Cornette asks Gangstas to let him manage them, but they turn him down, PLUS Candito, Boo Bradley, Smothers, Anderson and all the other stars of SMW.

SMW TV #12 DEC 1994 Features...

Gangstas attack Armstrong, Anderson attacks Smothers, Cactus Jack vs. Candito, Gangstas vs. Armstrongs, Buddy Landel attacks DWB, Cactus Jack vs. Boo Bradley, Jim Cornette helps R & RX amazing!! DWB & Landel brawl, Lee vs. Landel title change, PLUS Jerry Lawler, Candito, Lee, Smothers, Anderson, Cactus, and all the other stars of SMW.

USWA

USWA TV #1—6 HOURS Features...

PG13 vs. Eliminators, Lawler & Christopher vs. Gilbert & Machine, Tommy Rich & Gilbert vs. Moon Dogs, Tommy Rich vs. Jerry Lawler & Gilbert & Rich vs. Lawler & Brian Christopher, Sid Vicious interferes GREAT!!! PLUS PG13, Koko B Ware, Master of Orient, Jef Gaylord, and all the stars of USWA.

USWA TV #2—6 HOURS Features...

Tommy Rich vs. Lawler (barbed wire blood bath), Christopher and Moon Dogs vs. Gilbert & Rich & Machine, Spellbinder vs. Christopher, Sid Vicious jumps Gaylord, Doug Gilbert vs. Brian Christopher plus PG13, Eliminators, Sid Vicious, Huber Reggie B Fine.

USWA TV #3—6 HOURS Features...

Gilbert vs. Christopher (Car vs. title), Buddy Landel debut, Sid Vicious attacks Lawler, Landel turns on Christopher, Sid Vicious vs. Tanaka, Moon Dogs vs. Rich & Landel (blood bath), Lawler vs. Spellbinder, Moon Dogs get jumped by Rich & Landel, Lawler & Idol vs. Sid Vicious & Huber PLUS all the other stars of USWA.

USWA TV #4—6 HOURS Features...

Rich & Landel attack Moon Dogs, Landel & Rich vs. PG13 parking lot brawl, Lawler vs. Sid Vicious, Landel vs. Christopher, Sid & Gilbert vs. Eliminators, Lawler & Christopher vs. Spellbinder & Fine, Christopher vs. Gilbert (Hair vs. Hair), Dark Patriot vs. Christopher, all the other stars of USWA.

USWA TV #5—6 HOURS Features...

Sid Vicious & Gilbert vs. Lawler & Christopher, PG13 & Miss Texas vs. Phantoms & Fantasia, Lawler vs. Gilbert, Rich vs. Lawler, bloody locker room brawl, Mable vs. Sid Vicious, Landel vs. Rich, Moon Dogs vs. Cadillac Brother PLUS Spellbinder, Landel, PG13, and all the other stars of USWA.

USWA TV #6—6 HOURS Features...

Rich & Landel feud clips, Lawler & Christopher vs. Rich & Gilbert PLUS a bloody locker room brawl, Moon Dogs vs. Rich & Gilbert & Dowden vs. Lawler & Dundee & Christopher, Rich vs. Landel, Gaylord vs. Spellbinder, Bruise Brothers debut, Lawler & Dundee & Christopher vs. Rich & Gilbert & Machine, PLUS tons of other matches with all the USWA stars.

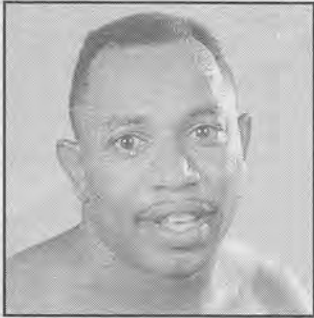
USWA TV #7—6 HOURS Features...

Lawler & Sid brawl, Rich vs. Christopher, Dundee & Gilbert brawl, Rich & Christopher brawl, PG13 & Dundee vs. Spellbinder & Gilbert & Rich, best of Memphis 10 man tag match PLUS tons of year in review matches with Funk, Sid Vicious, Lawler, Dundee, Rich, Landel and all of the other stars of USWA.

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Thumbs Up

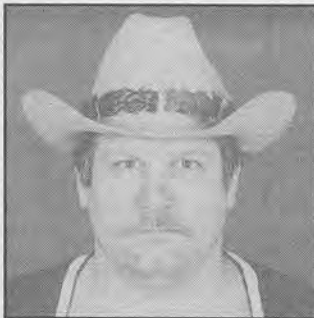
Each Issue, *THE WRESTLER* will praise the noteworthy and damn those who violate the honor of wrestling. The praiseworthy receive a Thumbs Up, the disgraceful are marked with a Thumbs Down. Here is this month's roll of honor and shame.



Thumbs Up to 2 Cold Scorpio. It's about time this talented aerialist won a major singles title! More than a year has passed since Scorpio left WCW for the independent circuit. The former WCW World tag team champ hasn't regretted making the move. He is one of the most popular wrestlers in ECW—a federation where the fans can be very demanding—but he always seemed to come up just a little short in matches against superstars such as Sabu and Shane Douglas. Well, he didn't come up short against Dean Malenko. He pinned "The Shooter" cleanly to win the ECW TV title. Here's to a long and successful reign!



Thumbs Up to Randy Savage. A lot of bad thoughts went through our collective heads when we saw a masked man appear at ringside during the Vader-Hulk Hogan match at WCW Uncensored. We were wondering if another one of Hogan's friends was turning against him. Fortunately, the man under the mask was Randy Savage, and his intentions were good. Savage had intervened to keep another masked man, Arn Anderson, from intervening in the Hogan-Vader match. Flair and Vader thought they had a friend when the masked man interfered, but the "Hulkster" held this trump card. Anderson was irate, but we had no sympathy for him.

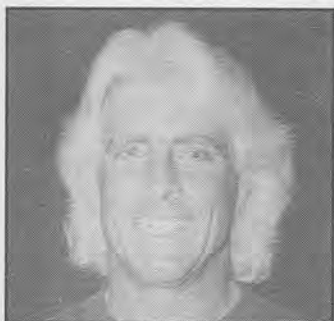


Thumbs Up to Stan Hansen. The math is easy: Four Triple Crown championships equal 12 separate titles. Stan Hansen, one of the greatest brawlers ever, won his fourth Triple Crown when he pinned Toshiaki Kawada in Japan. The roughneck from Borger, Texas, has become quite a star in the Orient, where he is revered for his tough, no-nonsense style. "There's no one in the world tougher than me," Hansen spat. "I proved that." He certainly has, time and again, by performing at a peak level on foreign soil. Hansen is one of wrestling's living legends—a man who brings honor to the sport and the U.S.



Thumbs Up to Bob Backlund. *Perhaps* having seen the error of his ways, Bob Backlund stole the show at a *WWF Monday Night Raw* when he stole a shot at I-C champ Jeff Jarrett. Many of the fans, who despise Jarrett, cheered Backlund in the bout. Backlund has been a mean, bitter man during his stint as a rulebreaker, and he broke a few rules en route to beating Jarrett by DQ. Fortunately, there's still time for Backlund to restore honor to his name, and the fact that he's challenging rulebreakers is an encouraging sign. A win over Jarrett for the I-C belt and another run at the WWF World title would do wonders for him.

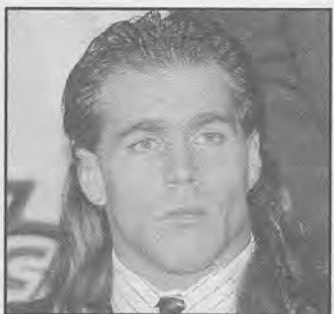
Thumbs Down



Thumbs Down to Ric Flair. Done up in women's clothes, right down to the stockings, heels, makeup, and hair, Flair disgraced himself, the sport, and his career with his despicable display at WCW Uncensored. It was clear that Flair had gone crazy when he interfered in the Randy Savage-Avalanche match, raged against Hulk Hogan, and interfered in the main event. Now it's clear that Flair won't quietly ride off into wrestling's sunset, as the "loser-must-retire" terms of his Halloween Havoc contract stipulated. That's a shame, because Flair isn't only besmirching an outstanding career, he's making himself look stupid.



Thumbs Down to Johnny B. Badd. As fans celebrated Badd's victory over Arn Anderson at WCW Uncensored, we wondered why Badd would want to score a victory for boxing over wrestling in this boxer vs. wrestler match. Wrestlers have tactical advantages in such bouts because they can use all parts of the body, while boxers can only use their fists. Although Badd combined boxing and wrestling to pulverize Anderson, the impression he left was that boxers are better athletes than wrestlers. We know that's not true, so why did Badd agree to this match? After all, he's a wrestler despite his boxing background.



Thumbs Down to Shawn Michaels. If stupid is as stupid does, as Forrest Gump claims, then we're surprised, because we didn't think Shawn Michaels was stupid. In fact, we thought he was smart. But Michaels made the worst move of his career when he signed Sid Vicious as his new bodyguard. It's only a matter of time before Sid overshadows and overpowers Michaels, who seems to be on the verge of greatness. The Three Little Pigs were smart enough not to allow the fox into their house, but Sid didn't have to blow down any house. Michaels' invited guest will be his worst nightmare come true. He'll simply do what Diesel did.



Thumbs Down to Jerry Lawler. "The King" goes from yay to nay for losing the Smoky Mountain title to Bobby Blaze and making up lame excuses for his loss. Said Lawler: "Blaze got lucky. That's all there is to it." Well, "King," there's no excuse for a former world champion losing to an up-and-coming star who had never won a single heavyweight title. There's certainly no excuse for you not coming to wrestle your best match every night. At this point in his career, Lawler should know that anyone can lose to anyone at any time. Instead of working hard, Lawler chose to make excuses. *Losers' excuses!*

CORRESPONDENTS

REPORTS

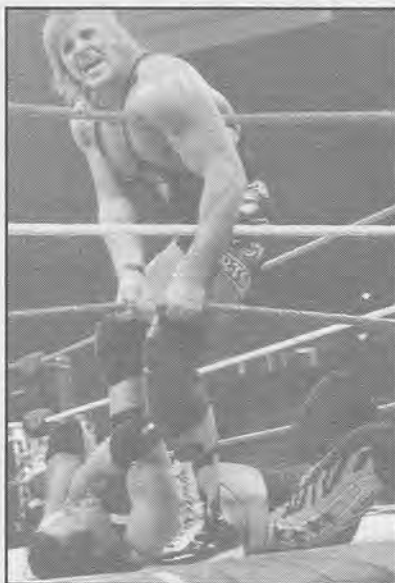
New York, NY (Correspondent—Christine Gryscavage):

What seems like the never-ending battle between Bret and Owen Hart continued with a no-holds-barred match at Madison Square Garden.

The action started before the bell rang, as Bret stormed the ring and attacked his brother. Owen was overwhelmed by Bret's onslaught and was visibly shaken after getting thrown through the ropes and out of the ring. Bret followed him out and slammed his head into the stairs, the officials' table, and onto the Garden floor. Owen was dazed, but not yet beaten.

The self-proclaimed "King Of Harts" clobbered Bret in the head with the house microphone, then wrapped the cord around Bret's neck and choked him. Bret fought back and dragged Owen back into the ring.

Before Owen could recover from this latest onslaught, Bret locked him in the "sharpshooter" leglock. Owen submitted, but Bret refused to release the hold until officials threatened him with a fine. After the officials left, though, he put the "sharpshooter" on Owen a second time before leaving the ring.



Owen Hart should know by now that he has to do more than choke his brother Bret in order to beat him. "The Hitman" finished off his rulebreaking sibling with the "sharpshooter."

In other bouts: Diesel beat Jeff Jarrett ... Bull Nakano defeated Alundra Blayze ... Aldo Montoya beat Steven Dunn ... The Undertaker beat Tatanka ... Davey Boy Smith & Lex Luger defeated King Kong Bundy & Bam Bam Bigelow ... Duke Droese beat Timothy Well.

Erlanger, KY (Correspondent—Doug Jacobs): NWA champion Chris Candido hadn't planned on defending his NWA

title against Dan Severn on this Smoky Mountain card at Peel's Palace. The bout was signed, however, after Severn interfered in a match between Candido and Boo Bradley, preventing Candido from using a pair of brass knuckles.

An infuriated Candido actually challenged Severn. And Severn, who is a top competitor in the Ultimate Fighting Championship, actually got the champion to agree to UFC rules.

At the beginning of the match, Candido slapped his foe across the face, and Severn retaliated with a vengeance. The Michigan native got the upper hand first, choking Candido several times, but the referee intervened each time. Candido did mount a brief offensive, suplexing Severn a few times, but Severn retaliated with suplexes of his own.

Severn ultimately backdropped Candido, then locked on an armbar. Candido finally submitted after experiencing a few minutes of excruciating pain.

In other bouts: The Gangstas beat The Heavenly Bodies ... Buddy Landell pinned Tony Anthony ... SMW tag team champs

(Continued on page 56)

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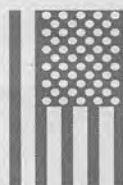
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ASKED You us

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Kevin Sullivan says he will welcome his brother Dave back into his camp "when hell freezes over." He refuses to forgive him for befriending Hulk Hogan.

Q: "My question is for Kevin Sullivan: Kevin, pound-for-pound, you're the toughest wrestler in the world today. Your brother, Dave, has the potential to be great if he would just allow you to train him. What would it take for you two to get together again?"—Craig McLean, Junction City, KS

A: "It would take hell freezing over," Sullivan spat. "I don't forgive and forget too easily. As far as I'm concerned, when Dave sided with that gorilla, Hogan, he stopped being my

brother. I thought if I beat the crap out of him enough times, he'd come around to my way of thinking, but I was wrong. Hogan has him under his spell, and I don't care about him anymore. He's a lost cause. He's worthless. He's garbage. Maybe if he came crawling back to me on his hands and knees and kissed the ground I walked on, I'd think about taking the hopeless idiot back!"

Q: "I have two questions for Woman: First, you've been associated with some great wrestlers (Kevin Sullivan, Sandman, Ric Flair, Doom, the Steiners, etc.). Which was the best? Second, will you marry me?"—Jason Termer, Verona, KY

A: "Ah, the intelligence of the fans makes me laugh," Woman cackled. "'Who's your favorite wrestler?' ... 'Will you marry me?' ... what great, original questions. Let me put it this way: Every wrestler who was ever managed by me became a better wrestler

because of my influence. I get calls every day from wrestlers begging me to manage them. But I only deal with real men, Jason. I'm talking about men like The Sandman. He's the best wrestler in ECW. Not Sabu, not Cactus Jack, not Tommy Dreamer, not Terry Funk. What other wrestler has the guts to smoke a cigarette on the way to the ring? He doesn't care what anyone thinks, and neither do I. He's hardcore to the extreme. As for your second question, like I said, I only deal with real men."

Q: "I have a question for Col. Robert Parker: Blacktop Bully is one of the main men in your Stud Stable, and you have him going after Dustin Rhodes. Before that, you had Bunkhouse Buck, Terry Funk, and Arn

(Continued on page 58)



Woman has managed a lot of great wrestlers in her time. She says she only associates with real men in ECW these days, men like The Sandman, who isn't afraid to smoke in the ring.

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INTRODUCING THE SUPER JOCKS

By Brandi Mankiewicz

Photos by Timothy A. Walker

THE SUPER JOCKS, Ed Atlas and Chris Weider, are liars. They have not done half the things they claim to have done. They aren't related to Charles Atlas and Joe Weider, as they claim to be. They aren't the envy of men or the object of women's desires. In short, whatever comes out of their mouths is to be dismissed as fantasy. Believe only what you see in the ring. There, this young tag team is good. Very good. And that's no lie.

Weider and Atlas were discovered by their current manager, Eddie Reality, at a New York fitness center, where he worked part time. "I got the idea to match Ed and Chris up when I saw them training," explains Reality. "I knew by the way they carried themselves that they would be would be a great team. I didn't know that they were both from athletic families. Neither did



The Super Jocks—Chris Weider and Ed Atlas—give their manager, Eddie Reality, a lift. Weider and Atlas say their "outstanding" physiques are a result of excellent genes.

anyone else, at the time. Some still doubt it, which makes us mad."

Almost no one believes that either one of these men could possibly be related to two of the most noted bodybuilders in history. Their genetics can't be off

that much. If they are truly who they say they are, then years of work by scientists to prove a genetic link between generations are worthless.

"When you look at their physiques, you would think they put in hours of hard work in the gym," said Reality, whose name itself is an oxymoron. "But their magnificent physiques are simply the result of their extraordinary genes."

If Eddie took a look at reality, he'd see a much different picture. Don't even believe their listed weights: Weider says he is 239 pounds and Atlas says he is 236 pounds.

Looking at them, it's easy to see the naked truth: These men's claims of physical superiority are a hoax.

They may not have spent much time in a gym, but they did undergo a rigorous training course at Larry Sharpe's Monster

Many people believe good genes make a good athlete. The Super Jocks—Ed Atlas and Chris Weider—*claim* they have better genes than any wrestlers in the world. Guess what. They're lying!

Factory in New Jersey. "You don't graduate from the Monster Factory unless you've passed some pretty rigid tests," said Sharpe. "These kids came in with an attitude, and they learned pretty fast that if you're going to talk the talk, you'd better be able to walk the walk—or you won't be walking for long."

According to Sharpe, the attitudes of Weider and Atlas underwent major reconstructive surgery, courtesy of some upper classmen, in the first week of school. "After that," Sharpe said, "they tried very hard to blend in, and did quite well."

Since making their debut two years ago, The Super Jocks have dominated several independent federations. Individually, they have both held the WWA junior heavyweight championships. As a team, they have held the World Wrestling Association tag team title twice and are currently feuding current champions with Bad Attitude.

"Once we get our belts back, we're gonna take them on a tour of all those other weak promotions around the world," blared Atlas. "We're gonna defend against every team that wants to make a name for themselves by beating the hottest tag team in the world!"

If it surprises Larry Sharpe that his former students have regained their cocky attitudes, he should get a load of the press bio the Weider, Atlas, and Reality have created. Among their claims:

- Weider won the world natural bench press championship in 1992 in Las Vegas.
- Weider won the gold medal in a clean-and-jerk competition at the Goodwill Games.
- Weider won the 1994 International Billiards Federation

World Nine Ball championship.

- Atlas took first place in the 1993 U.S. Fitness Competition.

- Atlas won the Pro Karate Association championship tournament in 1993.

- Atlas and Weider won the United States Badminton Federation doubles championship in 1993.

- Atlas and Weider made it to the finals of an *American Gladiators* competition, but the footage was never televised because the Super Jocks had completely embarrassed the Gladiators.

Of course, THE WRESTLER was unable to find anyone who could substantiate those dubious claims and, when pressed for details, not one of the three men could remember exact details of

their "accomplishments."

"What do you mean *when*," screamed Weider, incredulously. "All you need to know is that we did it. You don't need to know information about when or where. We know that we did it and that's that!"

"You can believe it because we said it!" screamed Atlas. "Would we lie to you?"

One bit of truth in this whole farce is that this duo is a talented team, whose boasts might work to their advantage. Many opponents take them for granted because they know they are pathological liars and can't believe that they would have anything to offer in the ring.

Anybody who thinks that way is either sadly mistaken—or lying to themselves. □



Atlas holds Bushwhacker Butch while Weider prepares to deliver a right hand to the stomach. The Bushwhackers are one of the few teams The Super Jocks have been unable to beat; they intend to change that soon.

Q & A

Each month, *THE WRESTLER* will present a "Question and Answer" forum with an important figure in the wrestling world. It is your chance to meet wrestling's biggest stars as they answer the questions uppermost in fans' minds

Q: Considering all that's been going on, Bill, do you sometimes wish you were back in WCW?

A: Are you kidding? I love this. This is what this sport is all about—getting in there and giving it your heart and soul and guts. Managing is not bad, mind you, but nothing can replace the feeling of duking it out on the mat. And there isn't a better place to do that than right here in the USWA.

Q: Did you find anything different when you returned?

A: No, and that's the beauty of it. I mean, of course there were some wrestlers I'd never seen before, but other than that, it's the same as it ever was, and it's still run by Jerry Lawler.

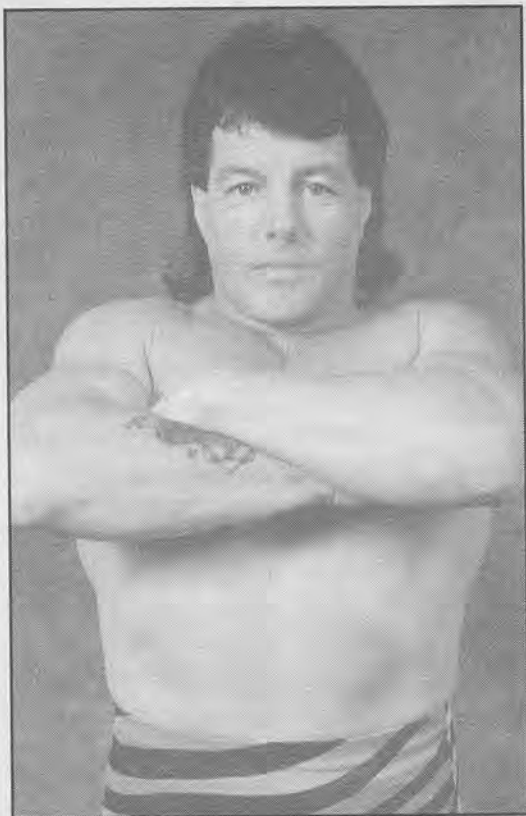
Q: What do you mean "run by" Jerry Lawler?

A: When Lawler says he's "The King," he means it. He has these promoters in his back pocket. I'm not saying he

doesn't take his licks, because he does. I mean he can walk into [promoter] Jerry Jarrett's office and say I



Despite all the bad things Dundee has to say about Jerry Lawler, he still teams with him occasionally. He calls "The King" a great partner, but fully expects that one day Lawler will abandon him during a tag team bout.



BILL DUNDEE

BILL DUNDEE WILL readily admit he is not the biggest, strongest, or most skilled man in professional wrestling, but when there is a fight to be fought, he will never be the first to back down. For years, the Melbourne, Australia, native has been one of the USWA's prime movers and shakers, ranking alongside Jerry Lawler as one of the federation's elite. Not even a stint in WCW as Sir William, manager of Lord Steven Regal, diminished Dundee's influence when he returned to Memphis. Almost immediately upon his return, though, Dundee got involved in a very strange situation. After beating Lawler for the USWA crown, he decided to team with "The King." Two days later, they were battling Crusher Bones and Big Daddy Cyrus when Southern champion Brian Christopher charged the ring and attacked both Lawler and Dundee. Now Dundee is feuding with both Christopher and Lawler, who are feuding off and on with each other as well. Confusing? Not to Dundee, who met Senior Writer Andy Rodriguez for this interview at the Gardens in Louisville, Kentucky. "No matter how crazy things get in the USWA," Rodriguez reported, "Dundee treats it all as just another day at the office."

want this match with so-and-so on this day, and he'll get it. I've seen it happen a hundred times. He's got these fans in his back pocket, too.

Q: It hasn't prevented you from teaming with him.

A: Well, with his connections, why wouldn't I? Seriously, despite everything I've said about Lawler, he makes a damn fine partner. The two of us combined know more tricks than any *three* men in the sport. That's why even these big, tough guys in Memphis have so much trouble with us. Having said that, I'm still a long way from trusting Lawler. I don't think I could ever trust him. There's a long history of bad blood between us. If one day I reach for the tag and he's not there, I won't be surprised. I even expect it'll



Dundee recently beat Lawler and Brian Christopher in a triple-threat match. He professes hate for both men. He also insists that he will be at or near the top of the USWA rankings for a long time to come.

happen sometime.

Q: It would seem you have more to worry about in singles competition, having to face both Lawler and Brian Christopher.

A: Trust me. I can handle them

both, at the same time if need be. Especially that kid Christopher. I've never seen such an arrogant young man. He's talented, but he's not nearly as good as he thinks



Considering that Dundee is quite a bit older than Christopher, it has surprised a lot of people that he has fared very well against him. Dundee is disturbed that Christopher is so arrogant.

he is. He should remember that he may be the Southern champion, but I'm the heavyweight champion. That carries a lot more weight around here.

Q: A bullwhip carries a lot of weight, too.

A: So I hit Christopher in the throat with my bullwhip to beat him once. It's no big deal. I was just defending myself. He would have done the same to me. Whatever he throws at me, I'll throw it back at him twice as hard. There's no way that kid will ever put one over on the "Superstar." And when I'm finished with him, I'll deal

with Lawler more completely.

Q: How completely will you be able to deal with him, considering that he spends much of his time in the WWF?

A: I don't see that as a problem. I'll follow him there if I have to.

Q: Have you worked out a contractual agreement with the WWF?

A: Not yet, I haven't, but if that's what I have to do to get more matches with Lawler, so be it. I don't think the WWF is any more competitive than the USWA or anywhere else. Besides, it's just a question of facing Lawler. From what I under-

stand, the fans there despise him, completely the opposite from here. So maybe the people there would get behind me, give me a little bit of a push. Lawler doesn't control the promoters there like he does in Memphis. All he has working for him is that big mouth of his. He's a great talker. I'll give him that. That won't help him when he faces me. Believe me it won't.

Q: But for how long will you be able to withstand the combined assault of Lawler and Christopher? Who are your allies?

A: Sure, it gets hard some nights. It gets real hard when you feel like every damn wrestler in the federation is against you. I have friends, though. Not a lot, but enough to be there when I need them. Lawler and Christopher better not think they have it easy with me. Remember, they're also at each other's throats. They have other enemies, too. They aren't going to spend all their time worrying about Bill Dundee. When this whole thing is over, I'll still be standing. Maybe they'll tell you the same thing, but I don't think they'll be looking as good as me.

Q: Do you feel your son, J.C. Ice, has been any help?

A: First of all, I call him Jamie, not that idiot name he uses. As far as helping me, I wouldn't say he's a help. He's not a hindrance, either. He usually stays out of my way, and that's how I like it. He doesn't interfere in my business, and I don't interfere in his. Jamie stopped lis-

tening to me long ago. He's a headstrong kid, just like his old man. To be honest, I'd like to have a better relationship with him, but I try not to think about it too much.

Q: Would you wrestle him?

A: If he got in my face I would! I'd take on him and his punk partner, Wolfie D, too. But I'm not looking to start a feud with Jamie, if that's what you mean. Like I said, we stay clear of each other. For his sake, he'd better keep it that way.

Q: What if Jamie teamed with Lawler or Christopher?

A: I would only care if it affected me directly. Jamie's smart enough to steer clear of those two, because if he isn't, there's a chance he'll have to tangle with me. He may not fear me anymore, but he respects me. The best thing for him to do is stay entirely out of my situation. Let's leave it at that.

Q: Do you miss being a manager?

A: Sometimes when I'm getting beat up I miss it (*laughs*). It's a lot easier to stand at ringside and bark instructions than it is to wrestle. That isn't to say it's simple. There's a lot of preparation involved, what with scouting opponents and so forth. You also have to watch your man in the ring every second, to protect him and make sure he's following your instructions. That especially was a problem with Lord Steven Regal.

Q: Really? Regal would have us think he's the perfect wrestler.

A: Let me tell you about Regal. He may boast that he's a

great ring technician, but he wouldn't have achieved the success he did without having me at ringside. I made Regal WCW TV champion. He'd deny it, but then he'd be lying. Yes, Steven is a fine athlete. He has more pure wrestling ability than most people in this sport. Still, he's going to find it much rougher now that I'm no longer there for him.

Q: Are you still following his career?

A: Once in a while, someone tells me about a match of his, but I'm too concerned with my own affairs to worry about him. Those days are behind me now. I'm not a manager anymore, I'm a wrestler.

Q: Did you ever feel ridiculous as "Sir William"?

A: Why should I have? I have been knighted by the Queen, and I'm very proud of that. As Regal's manager, I thought it was more fitting for me to be known as Sir William. Today it makes more sense for me to be plain, old Bill Dundee. That's how they know me here in the USWA. I don't have to be a snob with these people. They'd never put up with it anyway.

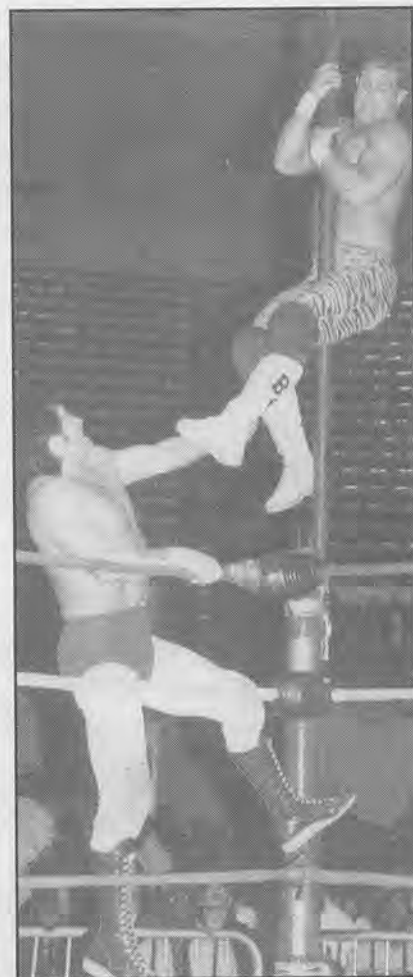
Q: The USWA title seems to change hands pretty quickly. How long do you think your reign will last?

A: The reigns are short because the competition is so intense. But I'm more ready for it now than I've ever been. Maybe I'll lose next month or next week or tomorrow. It doesn't matter; I'll be back

in the hunt the very next day. A lot of these young kids—and even guys like Lawler—were writing me off, saying I had no business coming back. I proved them wrong, didn't I? Winning this belt is one of the greatest things I've ever done, and I have a feeling I'll be doing many more great things.

Q: At Lawler and Christopher's expense?

A: Especially at their expense, my lad. I have what they want. Let them come and get it! ☐

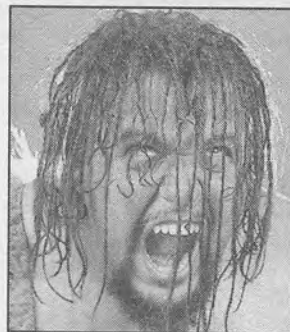


Dundee even beat Christopher in a "bullwhip-on-a-pole" match this winter in Memphis. He freely admits that he'll do anything to beat either him or Lawler, and he doesn't care about the consequences.

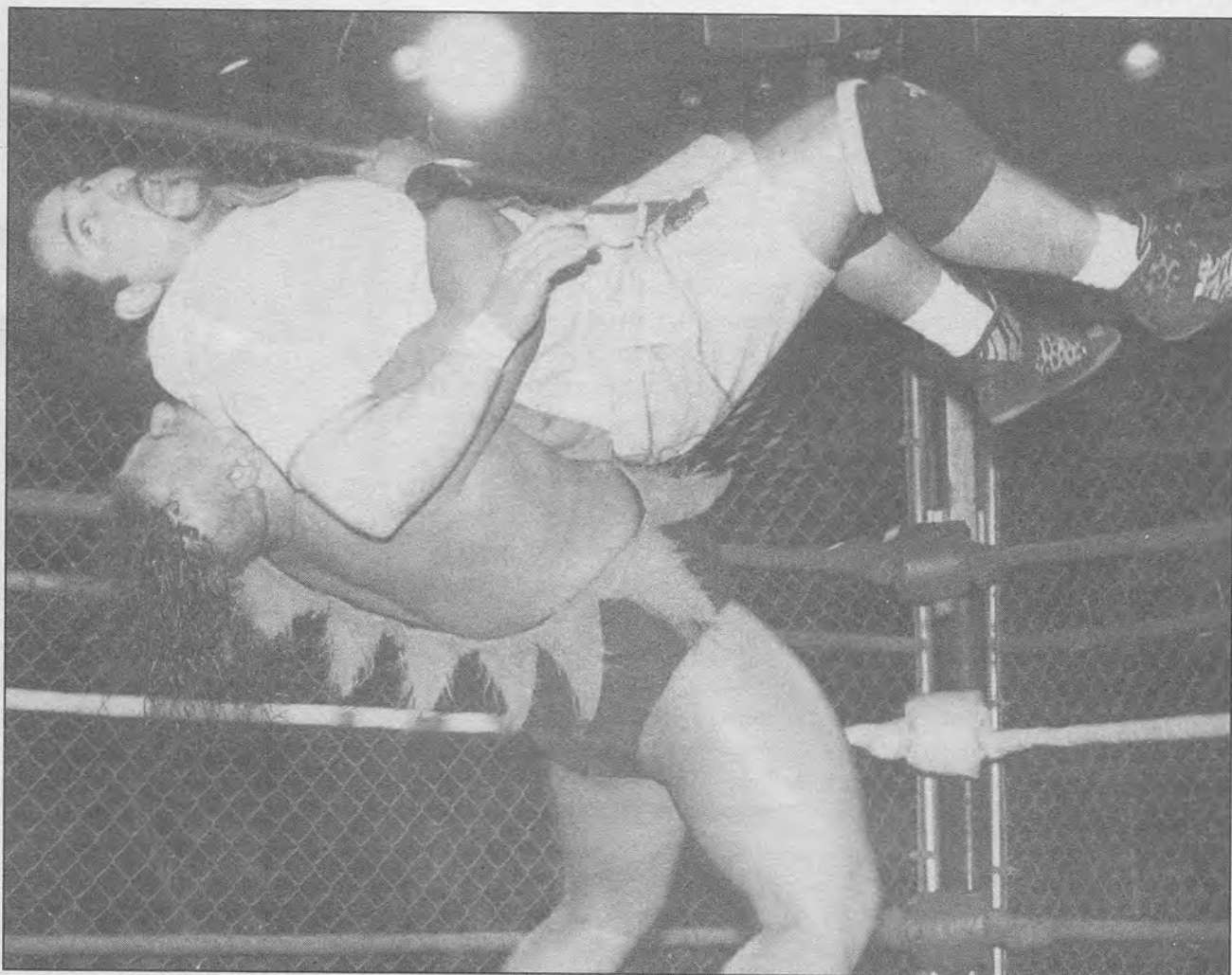
THE WRESTLER PANEL EXAMINES

TASMANIAC

RAY



Each month
THE WRESTLER'S panel of experts
will offer candid opinions of one
of wrestling's stars. Whether an up-and-coming
youngster or an established superstar in his own right,
our panel will always be frank and honest without fear of reprisal



Tasmaniac executes a belly-to-back suplex on Rocco Rock. Members of our panel admire his mastery of this move and also like his intensity and work ethic.



CAPT. LOU ALBANO

"I like the guy. He's fearless, he's vicious, he's mean, he's ... I don't know what else. Any man who can take a wrestler like Sabu to the limit and live to tell about it must be pretty good. The Tasmaniac is all business in the ring, and that's the sign of a wrestler who's serious about being the best he can be. I don't know much about his background, and I'm not sure I'd want to know. If you want the Captain to be honest, I'd say Tasmaniac scares me a little."

Capt. Lou Albano has led 13 different tag teams—most recently The Headshrinkers—to a record 17 WWF World tag team titles.



KILLER KOWALSKI

"What I don't understand is why Tasmaniac is now wrestling with Sabu as a tag team partner. He should still be wrestling against him. Sabu is a notch above Tasmaniac, and the only way Tasmaniac will get better is to take on Sabu, because he wrestles with a similar style. If you ask me, the best thing about Tasmaniac is his killer instinct. He'll do anything to win. He doesn't care who he has to go through; that's a quality many young wrestlers lack today."

Killer Kowalski, one of the most sadistic rule-breakers in the sport's history, runs a wrestling school in Reading, Massachusetts.



DORY FUNK JR.

"Well the first thing that comes to mind when I think about Tasmaniac is his arsenal of suplexes. I mean he can execute the belly-to-belly, the belly-to-back, the vertical suplex, the side suplex ... he can do it all. I know the suplex is a basic move, but it can be devastating if used right. Seems like every time I see Tasmaniac, he has a new variation of the suplex. That tells me a lot about how hard he works. I predict a real bright future for him."

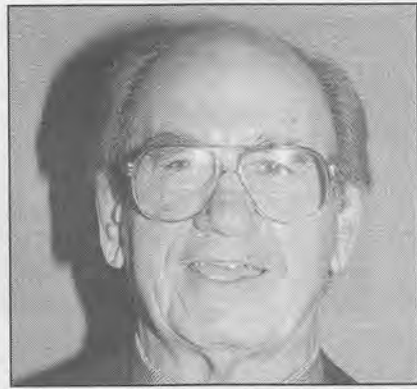
Dory Funk Jr. held the NWA World championship from 1969 to 1973. He still wrestles from time to time, primarily in Japan.



FABULOUS MOOLAH

"It's hard for me to believe sometimes that Tasmaniac is only 5'9"; he really makes the most of his God-given ability. I like seeing him hone his skills up there in ECW, too, hon. A brutal federation like that is the perfect place for him to get some experience. Wrestling those maniacs in ECW will make him even tougher than he already is. I don't know if I see him as a big WWF or WCW future star, but he has potential to be a dominant independent wrestler."

Fabulous Moolah, the finest woman wrestler in history, held the World title for 28 years. She trains wrestlers in Columbia, South Carolina.



LOU THESZ

"You know, I hear all about how this Tasmaniac is the master of the suplex, and from what I've seen, I agree. However, what people overlook is that he's a sound technical wrestler. He has learned a lot of basic moves and holds in a short time. What concerns me is his intensity. Actually, I think he gets too intense. He expends too much energy early in a match and also lets his hatred for opponents consume him. He has to learn to calm down and pace himself."

Lou Thesz held the NWA World title six times during his fabulous 50-year career. Many consider him the greatest all-around wrestler ever.



GORDON SOLIE

"My opinion of the Tasmaniac is mixed. I admire his abilities, and I am amazed at the improvement he has made during the last few years. His suplexes are already among the best in wrestling, and he is more focused in the ring than most athletes I see today. What I don't like is his reckless style. He tends to get out of control a little too often. I'd rather see him try to outwrestle his opponents more, rather than outbrawl them, which is what he usually does."

Gordon Solie has expertly analyzed pro wrestling on television for more than 35 years. He periodically appears on WCW telecasts.

BOB BACKLUND:

ONCE THE AUTOGRAPH-SEEKERS were satisfied, Bob Backlund and Arnold Skoaland were left alone to do what they had come to front row ringside to do. Backlund was not scheduled to defend his WWF title on that particular card which gave him and his manager the opportunity to scout their number one challenger.

Hulk Hogan knew he was being watched. When his name was announced, he pretended to place a belt around his waist, then turned and gave Skoaland and Backlund an evil smile. "It will be mine soon," he shouted. His manager Fred Blassie applauded his words.

Tito Santana, Hogan's opponent, grew impatient waiting for Hogan to face him



ring at the seven-count and took Santana a bit more seriously. Tito propelled himself off the ropes at Hogan, but Hulk lifted his immense forearms upon impact, sending Santana crashing to the mat.

"He knows how to use that bulk of his," Skoaland told Backlund.

"I've got to make sure I keep him off balance," Backlund said. "If he can't use all his leverage, I can minimize his strength advantage."

The two scribbled notes furiously throughout the match, speaking only when either detected a weakness in Hogan's attack. They did not speak much. Hogan is one of the most awesome figures in wrestling. Under the guidance of Fred Blassie, Hogan has leaped up

**"I
FEAR
HULK HOGAN!"**

and wrestle. After all, it was he who Hogan was scheduled to battle that night, not Backlund. Tito pushed Blassie aside and dropkicked Hogan from behind, sending him over the ropes and out of the ring, right at Backlund and Skoaland's feet. They never touched him,

they never even changed their expressions. They just scribbled their observations in their notepads.

"He's very easily distracted," Backlund said to Skoaland.

"He certainly is," Skoaland said.

Hogan climbed back into the

the ranks into the number one challenger's position for Backlund's WWF title after a relatively short amount of time in the area. His biggest problem has been finding opponents willing to take the risk of meeting him in the ring.

This was an important match

Respect. Bob Backlund and Arnold Skoaland sat ringside at one of Hulk Hogan's matches. Backlund watching with growing respect as Hogan demolished an opponent. Backlund observed Hogan's fearsome attributes, all the while acknowledging Hogan as his chief rival

PHOTOS BY BILL APTER

for Hogan, and despite his arrogant and cocky nature in the ring, he was very well aware of it. He needed the competition a Tito Santana could provide, yet a loss would undoubtedly drop him in the rankings.

Hogan whipped Tito into the ropes, caught him on the rebound, and bodyslammed him to the mat. He then lifted

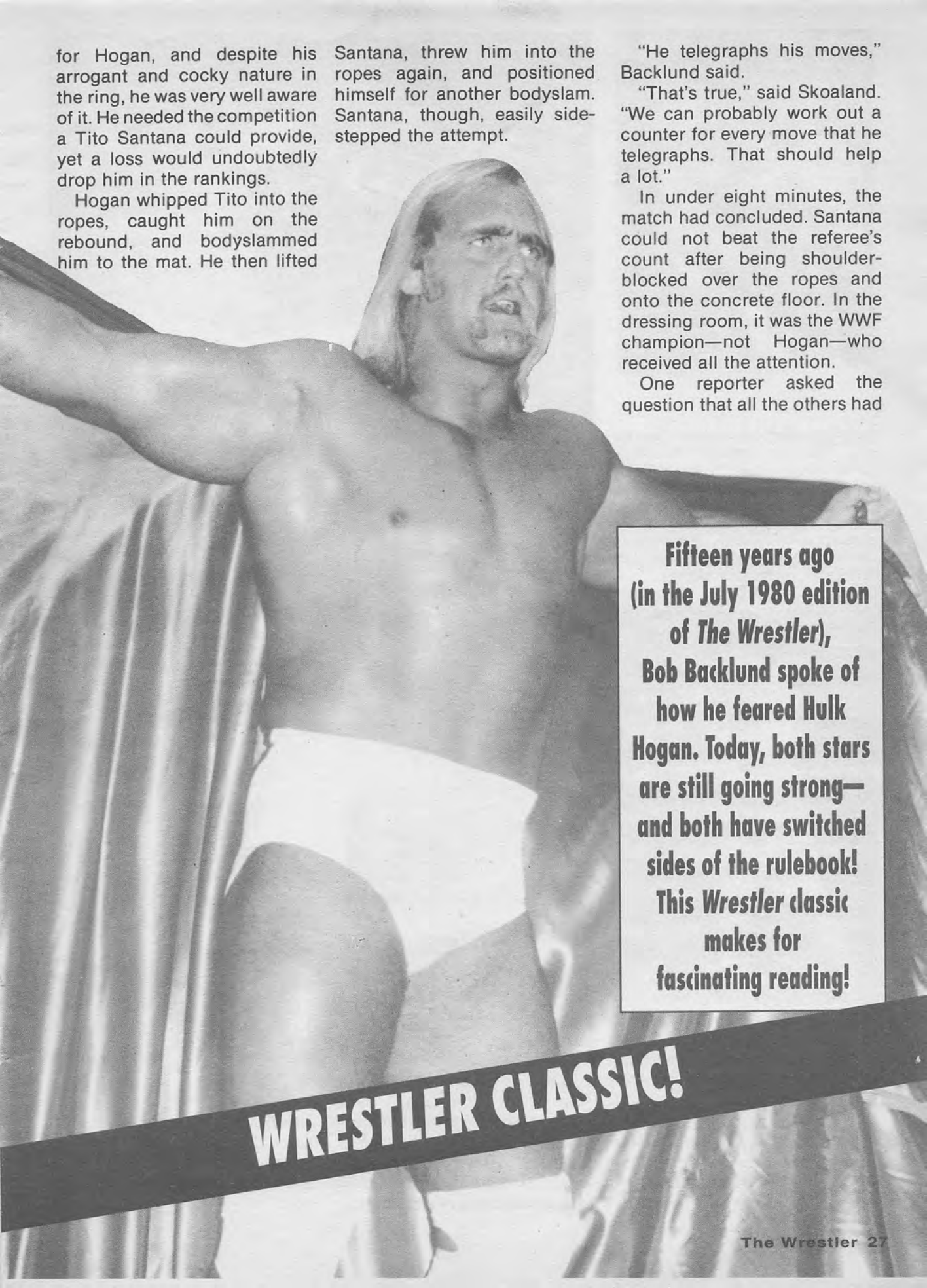
Santana, threw him into the ropes again, and positioned himself for another bodyslam. Santana, though, easily sidestepped the attempt.

"He telegraphs his moves," Backlund said.

"That's true," said Skoaland. "We can probably work out a counter for every move that he telegraphs. That should help a lot."

In under eight minutes, the match had concluded. Santana could not beat the referee's count after being shoulder-blocked over the ropes and onto the concrete floor. In the dressing room, it was the WWF champion—not Hogan—who received all the attention.

One reporter asked the question that all the others had



**Fifteen years ago
(in the July 1980 edition
of *The Wrestler*),
Bob Backlund spoke of
how he feared Hulk
Hogan. Today, both stars
are still going strong—
and both have switched
sides of the rulebook!
This *Wrestler* classic
makes for
fascinating reading!**

WRESTLER CLASSIC!

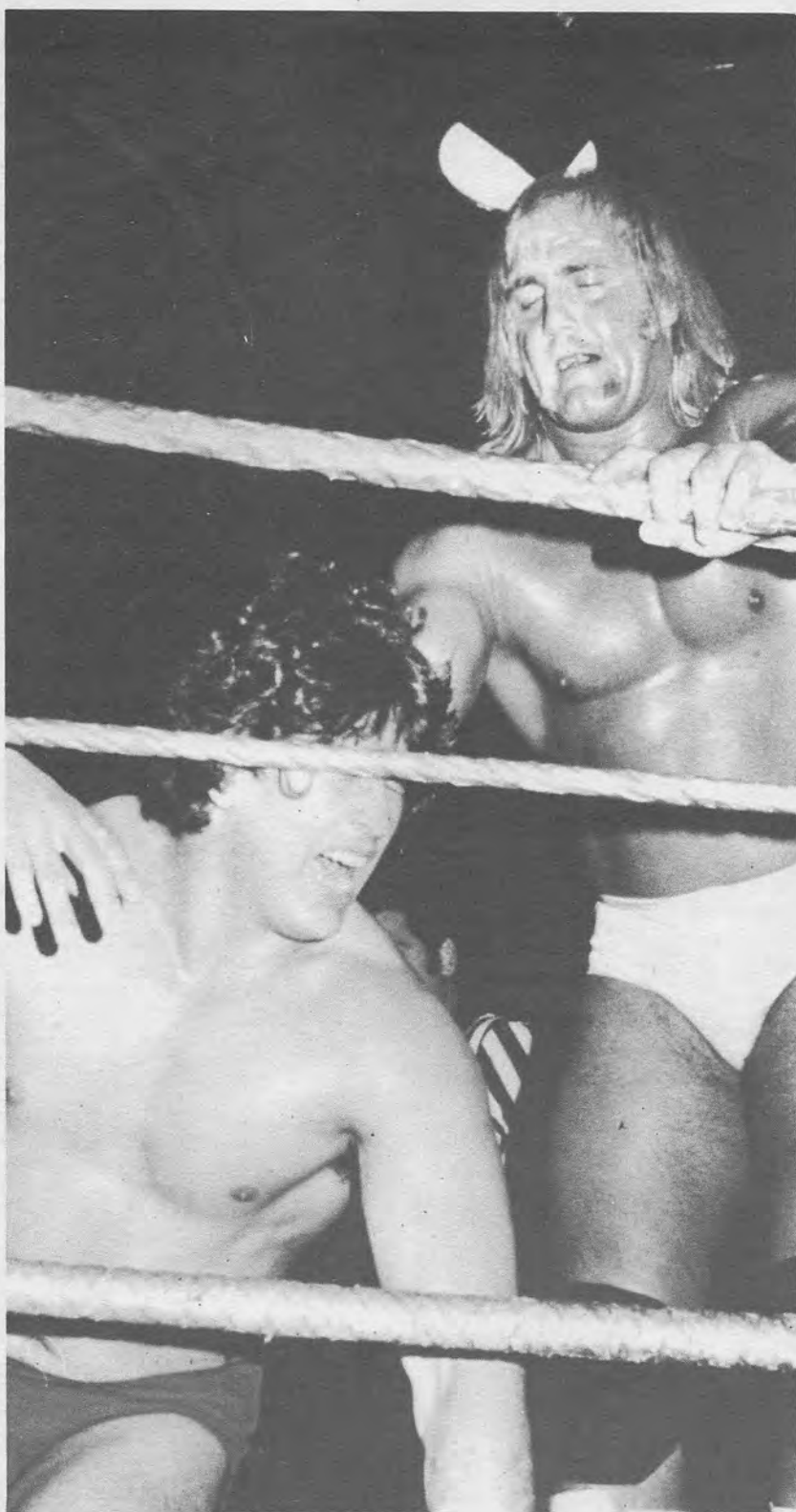


Hulk Hogan flings Tito Santana across the ring into the opposite turnbuckle (above). Hogan works Tito over along the ropes (right). Hogan breaks Santana's headlock by throwing him into the ropes (below). Bob Backlund and Arnold Skoaland were at ringside taking notes on the match in preparation of a possible future title match against Hogan.



on their minds. "Why were you here for this match," he asked. "Do you fear Hulk Hogan?"

Backlund rubbed his chin thoughtfully for a moment and gave his reply. "Yes," he said. "I fear Hulk Hogan. I fear every wrestler I go in the ring with, no matter how large or small and no matter how much talent they have. If you don't have that fear,



you are not human. When you step in the ring with a barefisted man weighing over 200 pounds, you better have fear. The fear makes you respectful and you damn well better be respectful if you're a champion,

or you won't be champion very long.

Hulk Hogan has Backlund's respect, but there is something more he wants from the champion. A diamond-studded belt. □

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Sting hails from which California beach community?

- 1) Malibu
- 2) Pacific Heights
- 3) Venice Beach
- 4) Newport Beach

Who managed The Moondogs to the WWF World tag team title?

- 1) The Grand Wizard
- 2) Capt. Lou Albano
- 3) Fred Blassie
- 4) Bobby Heenan

True or False: Rick Steamboat once briefly held the AWA World title.

- 1) True
- 2) False

Which of the following wrestlers has never held the WCW television title (as of December 31, 1994)?

- 1) Sting
- 2) Steve Austin
- 3) Rick Steiner
- 4) Scott Steiner

How did you do? If you're up for the challenge and want to put your wrestling knowledge to work, call now and go for the \$100!*

MARTY JANNETTY

Toughening Up For A

Marty Jannetty got a shot at heavyweight champion Shane Douglas in his first-ever ECW match. But it isn't Douglas' belt that he is after. He's looking down the road ... to a meeting with an old friend

By Ed Emelett

SOMETIMES IN Wrestling, just like in life, you learn more by losing than by you do by winning. Just ask Marty Jannetty.

Jannetty, who dropped out of the wrestling spotlight in early-1994, entered Extreme Championship Wrestling in mid-February, and immediately challenged Shane Douglas for the ECW heavyweight championship. Jannetty was defeated in a torrid battle in front of a blood-thirsty crowd at the ECW Arena in Philadelphia, but he felt he learned a lot about his career—and himself—in the process. "I felt great out there tonight," Jannetty said in his postmatch press conference. "And I'm getting ready for a full-time comeback. Shane Douglas is a great wrestler. I gave it 110 percent tonight, and Douglas just happened to be the better man this one time. But the more I wrestle here and adapt to the violent style, the better off I'll be. There is such an array of wrestling styles here in ECW, and I'll learn a little in every match I wrestle."

IN ECW BOOT CAMP:

Run At Shawn Michaels

"Besides, I have some unfinished business with a friend of mine ..."

Jannetty's voice suddenly trailed off. The press conference suddenly ended. What did he mean? What former friend? And what are those plans?

If you know your wrestling history, it shouldn't be that hard to figure out.

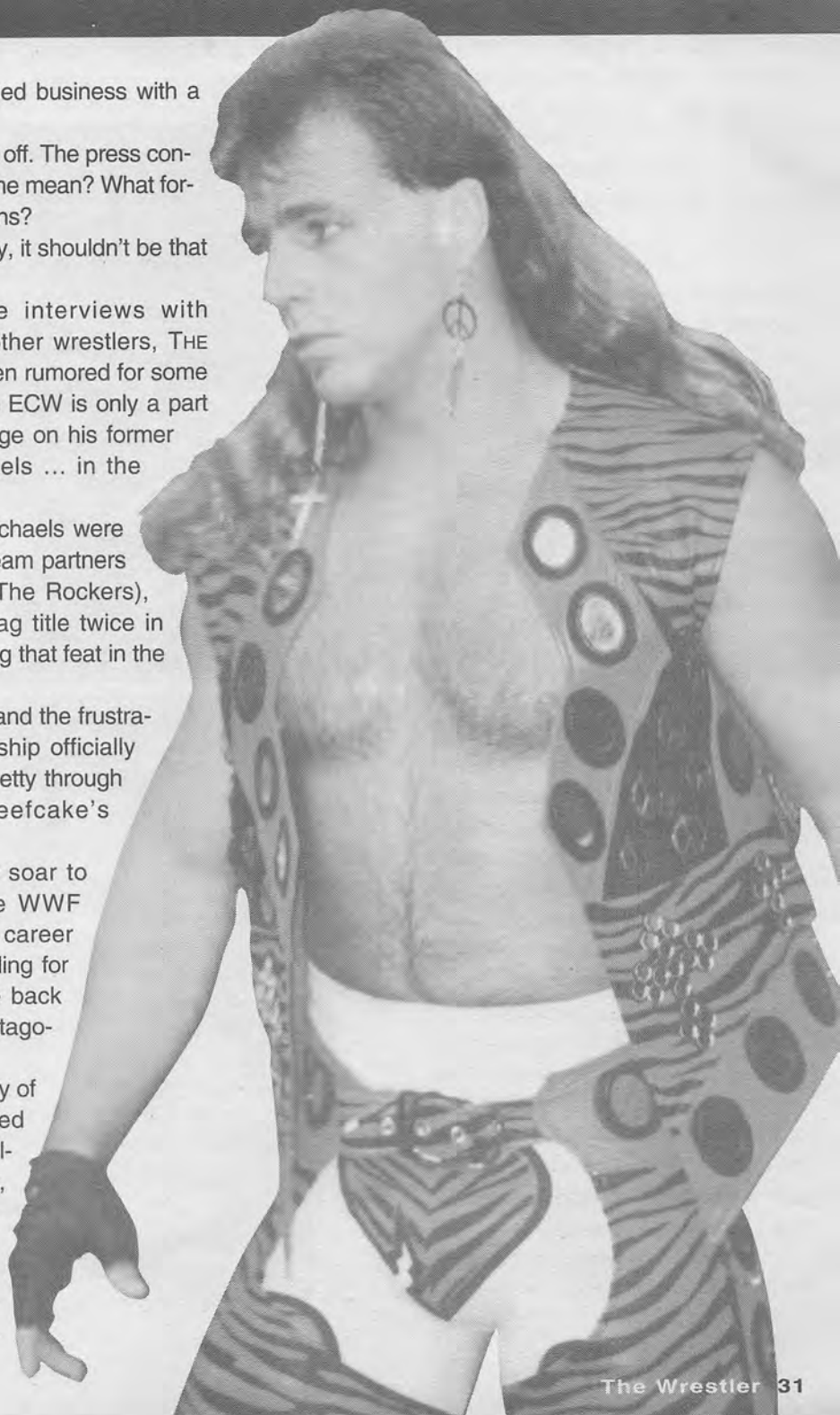
After conducting extensive interviews with Jannetty's friends, family, and other wrestlers, *THE WRESTLER* confirmed what had been rumored for some time: that Marty Jannetty's stay in ECW is only a part of his master plan to exact revenge on his former tag team partner Shawn Michaels ... in the WWF!

As you recall, Jannetty and Michaels were once the best of friends. As tag team partners in The Midnight Rockers (later The Rockers), they captured the AWA World tag title twice in 1987 and came close to duplicating that feat in the WWF.

But the losses start to add up, and the frustration started to build; the partnership officially ended when Michaels threw Jannetty through a glass window on Brutus Beefcake's "Barber Shop."

While Michaels continued to soar to new heights by capturing the WWF Intercontinental title, Jannetty's career sagged. He dropped out of wrestling for long periods of time, then came back periodically to aggravate and antagonize his old tag team partner.

On one memorable night in May of 1993, I-C champ Michaels issued an open challenge to anyone willing to take him on. Jannetty, whom the WWF fans hadn't seen in months, made his way out of the stands at the Manhattan Center in New York City and succeeded in capturing the champi-



onship in what would later be voted *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* Match of the Year. Michaels won the title back three weeks later, and Jannetty eventually faded back into quiet obscurity yet again.

But now Jannetty is back. For good, he says. And he is focused.

"Damn right, he's focused," said Axl Rotten, a man who is currently waging a bloody war against his brother, Ian. "This whole situation is just so weird. Me, Tasmaniac, Hack Myers, and Tommy Dreamer were working out at this gym in Philly one day when in walks Marty Jannetty. Couldn't believe it. Comes over to us and says he wants to 'take it to the extreme.' He said he wants to learn how to fight like a real man. He couldn't have come to a better place!"

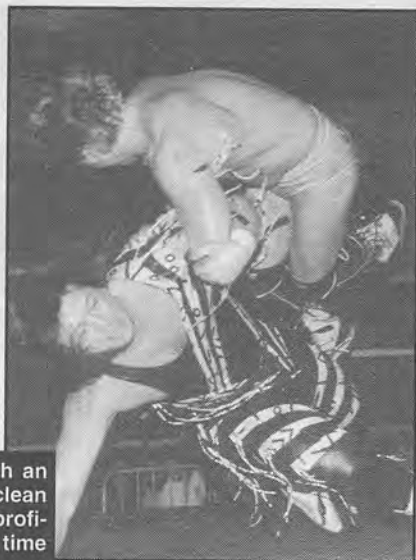
"Jannetty strolls over to us and tells us about this plan he's got," added Dreamer. "He seemed very determined. He told us that he had been watching ECW on television for quite a while and wanted to come here to get 'an extra advantage.' Over who or what, he didn't say. But I can guess. Said he'd like me to show him a thing or two about Singapore caning matches. Lord knows I've been in enough of those. I got the scars to prove it."

"He even told us he was in attendance at the last ECW show before he joined the federation. Douglas is lucky that he didn't issue an open challenge for his belt that night, or Jannetty probably would have got in the ring and beat him for it."

"Oh, yeah, he wants a piece of Michaels again," said one close

friend of Jannetty who demanded his name not be published. "Take a close look at the WWF. There aren't too many people who have beaten Shawn Michaels. Marty Jannetty has. Marty made a wise move in going to ECW. It'll give him that edge he needs over Shawn. Michaels is a great wrestler, but he doesn't know a damn thing about barbed-wire matches, or caning

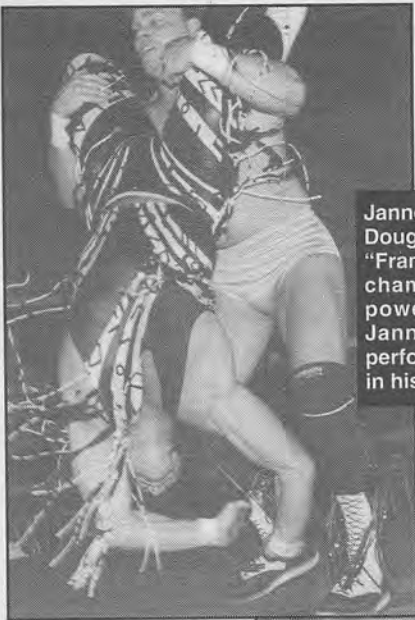
Jannetty takes down Shane Douglas with an armdrag. By ECW standards, this was a clean match. Jannetty hopes to become more proficient in violent specialty matches by the time his stint in ECW ends.



Douglas wasn't too happy about having his head rammed into Jannetty's right knee. Shawn Michaels probably wouldn't enjoy it, either. If Jannetty gets his way, those two will meet again very soon ... in the WWF!



If you like watching the clean-wrestling version of Marty Jannetty, you had better catch him in action soon. He thinks by becoming more violent and bloodthirsty in the ring, he'll have a better chance of beating Michaels.



Jannetty couldn't quite get Douglas turned over in this "Frankensteiner"; the ECW champ reversed it into a power bomb and pinned Jannetty. Still, not a bad performance for a wrestler in his first ECW match.

matches, or baseball bat matches. He prefers pure wrestling. If Marty becomes more of a 'hardcore' wrestler, as they say in ECW, he'll have a real edge over Michaels."

Not only has Jannetty wrestled Shane Douglas, but he also has matches tentatively scheduled with the high-flying aerial artist Sabu. Matches against the India native are sure to prepare Jannetty for anything that Michaels can throw at him. Granted,

Michaels isn't the aerial wrestler Sabu is, but to be a complete wrestler, you have to be able to wrestle against all types of opponents. Jannetty knows that and hopes to use his new skills against Michaels in the ring somewhere down the road.

Jannetty has asked promoters to sign him to as many bizarre, violent specialty matches—against any opponents—as soon as possible. "Marty said he wants a crash course in specialty matches, and he wants it immediately," said ECW President Tod Gordon. "He says it's

crucial that he start soon, because he has important business to tend to very soon!"

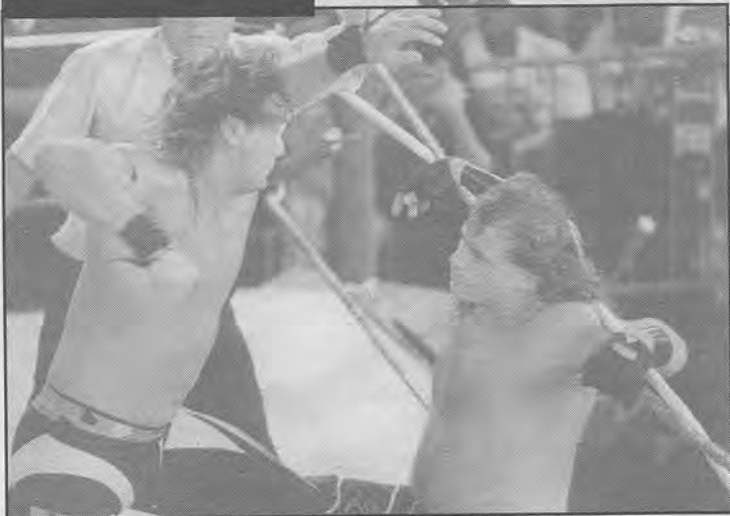
Asked if he was bothered by the notion that Jannetty is just using the ECW as a stepping-stone for future matches in the WWF, Gordon said: "I thought about that. But the way I see it, there really isn't a downside to this. First, Jannetty

has to get through the toughest test of his career. I'd give him less than a 50 percent chance of succeeding. But if he does, and then goes to the WWF and beats Michaels, you know he's going to give the credit to what he learned in ECW."

Michaels, so consumed with his WWF schedule, probably isn't even aware of what is going on in ECW. For his sake, he better not issue another one of those open-ended challenges. You never know who might be lurking in the crowd. □

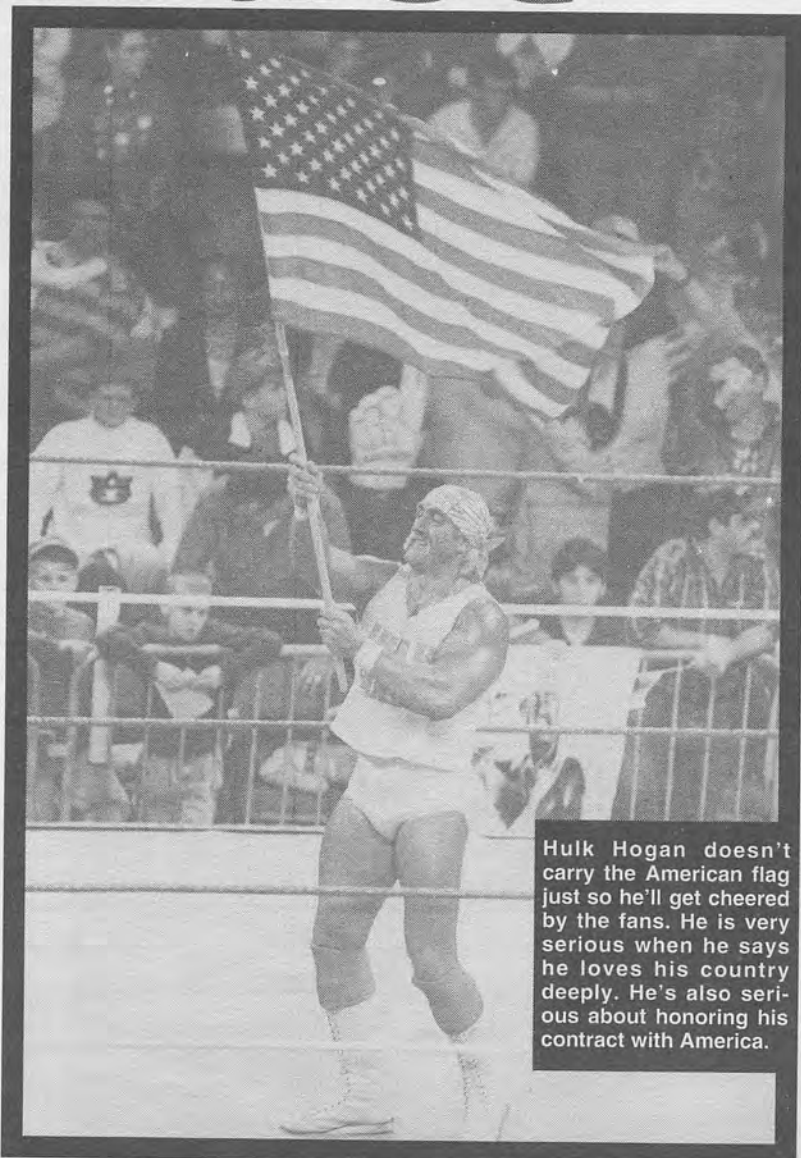


Jannetty held his own in a series of matches with Michaels in 1993. He even won the I-C title from him in one bout. Maybe the "Heartbreak Kid" can outwrestle him, but will he be able to outfight Jannetty after Marty goes through "ECW boot camp"?



Hulk Hogan's Contract

Politicians hardly ever keep their promises, but WCW World champion Hulk Hogan always does. He says his contract with America is written in stone



Hulk Hogan doesn't carry the American flag just so he'll get cheered by the fans. He is very serious when he says he loves his country deeply. He's also serious about honoring his contract with America.

With America

By Dave Rosenbaum

HE'S IN MUCH better physical condition than Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich and, if recent opinion polls are any indication, far more popular. Hulk Hogan would get elected by a landslide if he ever ran for public office, and he wouldn't need to flash a contract with America, as the Republicans did prior to the November 1994 elections.

The WCW World champion is clearly the people's choice in wrestling. Never in history has there been a more popular figure inside the squared circle.

Why? Because the "Hulkster" thinks of himself as a man of principle. There's no reason for him to reform.

Hulk Hogan's contract with America is more than 10 years old. He submits it for your approval.

1 "I will hold myself to the same high standards that I preach to my millions of 'Hulkamaniacs' out there. I have made mistakes in the past, but the only one among us who is perfect is the Man Upstairs. I have owned up to my mistakes and learned from them."

We're always saddened when we see professional athletes smoking in the dugout or abusing their bodies with drugs. These elite-class performers should realize that their bodies are temples and anything they put into their bodies will affect their performance. During last year's trial of Vince McMahon, Hulk Hogan admitted to have taken steroids earlier in his career. But he doesn't anymore. And we can trust that he never will again.

Hogan has for years told children to take their vitamins. Rest assured, Hulk takes his. He tells the 'Hulkamaniacs' to eat right. You'll never find fatty foods and colas (even the low-calorie kind) on Hulk's training table. He drinks cold spring water and fruit juices. And when he tells children to study hard and say their prayers, you know that Hulk is doing the same.

2 "I will balance my wrestling budget of title defenses against all types of opponents, both scientific stars and brawlers. You will never find me ducking any opponent or refusing to grant a match or rematch to a worthy contender. If an opponent wants me, he knows where to find me."

During his years as WWF World champi-

on, Hogan was often accused of wrestling a weak schedule and not defending his title often enough. "Hogan never wrestles scientific opponents," the critics railed. "Let's see how he does against Flair and DiBiase."

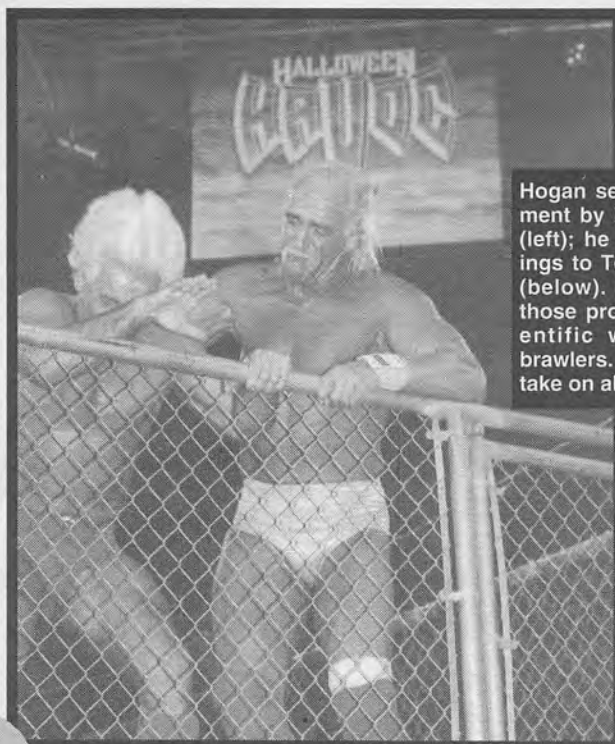
Well, Hogan proved himself against Flair and DiBiase and, by doing so, silenced the naysayers who claimed he couldn't beat a great scientific wizard. Already during his WCW tenure, Hogan has faced Ric Flair, Brutus Beefcake, and Big Van Vader, wrestlers with a virtual gamut of styles and personalities.

"Nobody scares me," Hogan said. "I'm a people's champion, and I don't want anybody to ever doubt me."

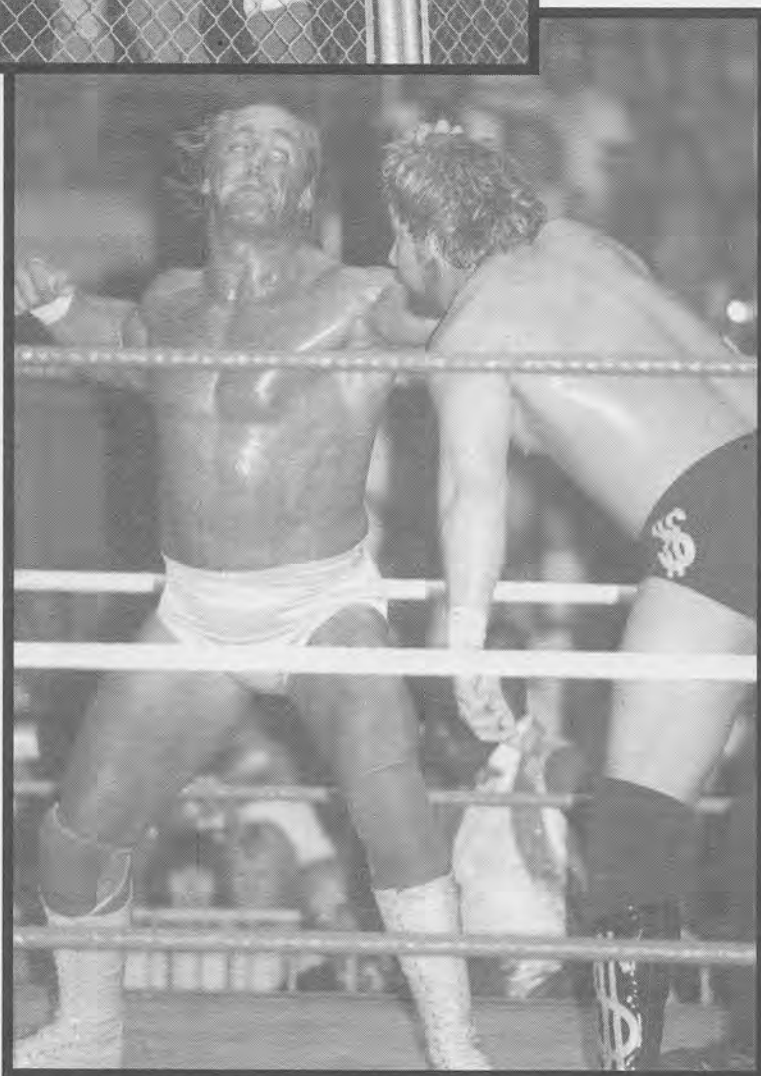
3. "I will defend my title against friend and foe." The most frequently heard criticism of Hogan is that he turns potential enemies into friends in order to keep them from going after his belt. Well, the Hulk Hogan of 1995 wants WCW officials to bring on the Stings, Dave Sullivans, Dustin Rhodes, and Johnny B. Badd of the federation, in addition to the Vaders, Avalanches, Rogers, and Flairs.

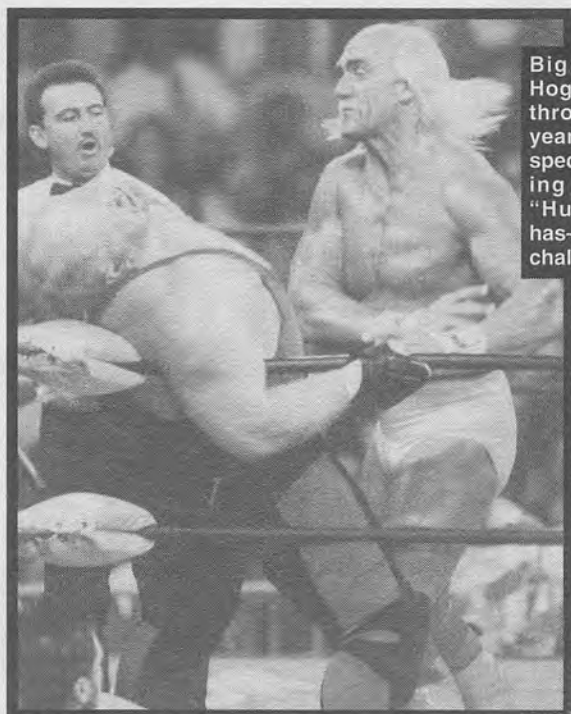
"What really burns me is that Brutus thought the only way he could get a shot at my title was to stab me in the back," Hogan said. "That's not true. All he had to do was ask, and I would have given him as many shots as he wanted. That has always been true. Andre the Giant never had to stab me in the back. All he had to do was ask. I wouldn't have taken it personally, and I want Sting and Savage to know that, too. I'm available for matches at any time."

4. "I will never turn my back on my fans or my country. I am an American first and a fan favorite second, but that doesn't mean my



Hogan sent Ric Flair into retirement by beating him in October (left); he delivered similar beatings to Ted DiBiase in the WWF (below). He says victories like those proved he could beat scientific wrestlers as well as brawlers. He vows to continue to take on all comers in the future.





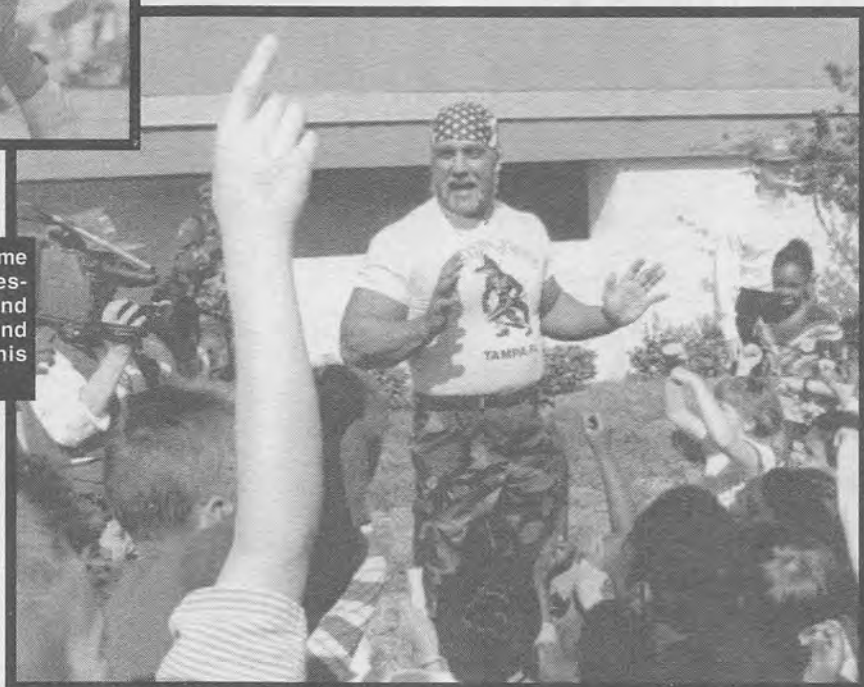
Big Van Vader is one man Hogan figures to see a lot of through the remainder of the year. There was once a lot of speculation that Hogan was trying to duck Vader. The "Hulkster" insists he never has—and never will—duck any challenger.

priorities lessen as they go along. The fans never have to worry about me. What they've always seen is what they will always get."

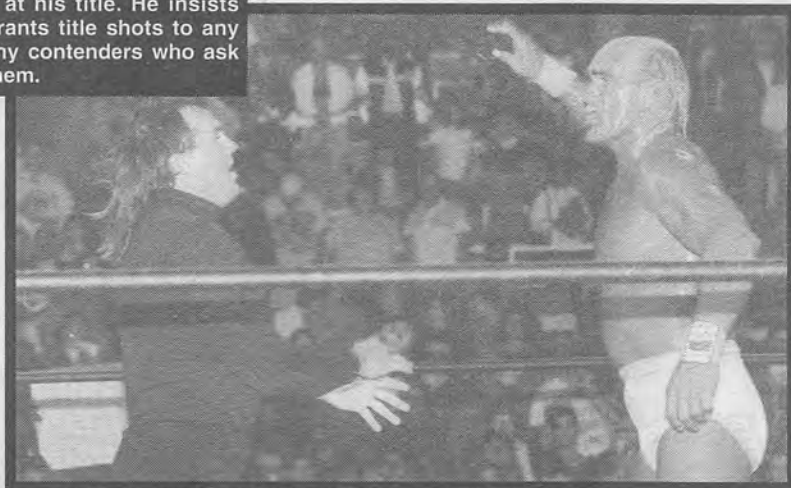
Ric Flair switches his loyalties at least annually. Jerry Lawler is a fan favorite in the USWA one day, a rulebreaker in the WWF or Smoky Mountain Wrestling the next. Who knows if we can really trust Diesel. And what's with Bob Backlund?

Although Hogan started his career as a rulebreaker, he has been a fan favorite ever since his final months in the AWA, in 1983.

The "Hulkster" enjoys spending time with kids and answering any questions they might have for him. And when he tells them to eat right and take their vitamins, he follows his own advice, too.



Hogan wishes Brutus Beefcake hadn't turned against him just to get a shot at his title. He insists he grants title shots to any worthy contenders who ask for them.



Friends have turned against him. Enemies have tested his mettle. The media have often been critical of the Teflon "Hulkster." But nothing changes. He remains true to his principles. There aren't many men in pro wrestling history who have been fan favorites longer than Hogan.

He'll never turn against you. He'll never lie to you.

Those might sound like clichés, but with Hulk Hogan, they're reality.

This is one contract that wasn't made to be broken

THE LIFE OF BRIAN:

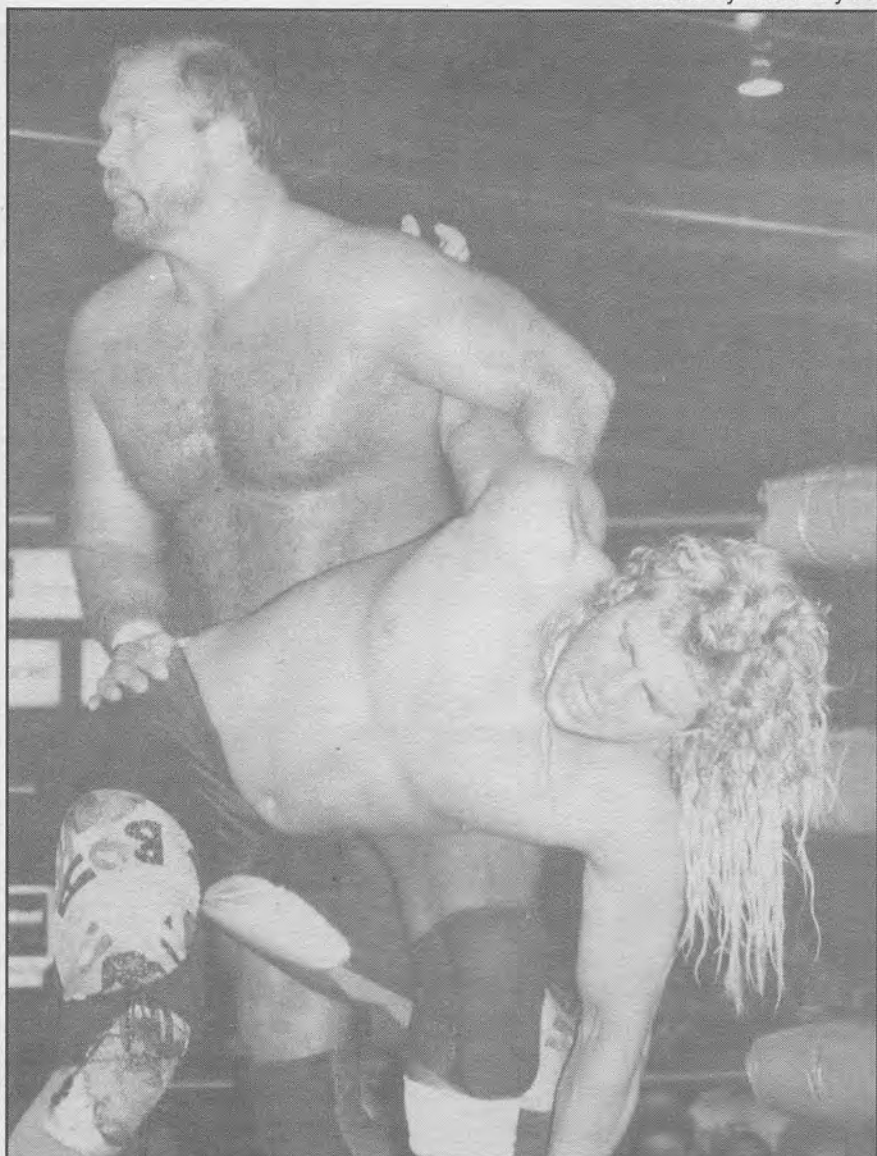
P

ILLMAN'S

ST

ATTIANCE

Photos by Steve Bryant



An abdominal stretch that Arn clamped on was the least of Pillman's worries in this match. He could handle any legal move or hold Anderson used, but was helpless when the WCW TV champion resorted to cheating.

RETCHED

TO THE LIMIT

After experiencing months of inner turmoil, Brian Pillman made a "California-ized" return to WCW, with the aid of Hulk Hogan. But did Hogan provide good career advice or push Pillman back to rulebreaking?

By Steve Anderson

"WHERE'S BRIAN?" WAS quite the popular question this winter in WCW, not to mention a perplexing puzzle.

No, it's not some bizarre off-shoot of "Where's Waldo?" "Where's Brian?" refers to inquiries regarding the whereabouts of Brian Pillman made by fans, journalists, and wrestlers everywhere. Had he been missing a little longer, we might even have seen his mug plastered on the back of milk cartons everywhere.

Pillman, who returned to WCW a few months ago, needed time to regroup. He hopped a flight to California, where he hoped to reflect on his career ... and figure out what went right and what went wrong. The latter was foremost on the mind of "Flyin'" Brian. He knew that wrestlers, even former champs, occasionally get lost in the promotional shuffle. Problem was that he didn't even seem to be in the deck anymore. Instead of battling champions, he was mired in a feud with Col. Parker over the fashionability of a chicken suit.

When he arrived at the airport, Pillman rented a car and began to drive up the coast. He made it a point to relax on every single beach he could find, taking his mind off his career dilemma. Without realizing it, he found himself on one the most famous beaches in all of

California: Venice Beach.

And that's where he found Hulk Hogan.

"Brian was down," reflected the WCW World champ. "He had lost all confidence in his career, himself, and, most of all, his decision to become a fan favorite." The "Hulkster" made it his goal to uplift the spirits of Pillman.

"He felt that he was at a crossroads and needed to reinvent himself as a hell-raiser rulebreaker. I convinced him to give it a shot my way. I told him to go ahead and reinvent himself, but to do it on the side of what's right."

So "California" Brian was born. With the influence of Hogan, WCW heavily touted the return of the resurrected, yet reluctant "West Coast" wrestling star. *Baywatch*-style video vignettes began appearing on every WCW TV show. All of a sudden, fans were talking about Brian Pillman in the present tense again. Pillman returned to wrestle at WCW TV tapings and arena shows to standing ovations. He was reborn. And he still had the support of the fans.

Then WCW signed Pillman to face TV champion Arn Anderson.

For Pillman, it was the best of times that quickly became the worst of times.

He could hardly contain his enthusiasm during the

match. The fact that he got a title match was a turning point for Pillman. *All I need is a chance*, he thought. *I'm as good as anyone in WCW. All I needed was a shot to prove it.*

The "new" Brian dominated the Anderson match. "Air Pillman" took to the skies again. He connected with a flying bodypress off the top rope. One ... two ...

Sometime between two and three, Parker and Meng were all over Pillman. Anderson was disqualified, but he got to carry the TV belt back to the dressing room. Pillman lay in the middle of the ring. He was hurt.

But not physically.

Pillman quietly left the ring, ignoring the extended hands of the many fans. As he got closer to the dressing room door, his blood began to boil.

"You'll get him next time, baby," said a waiting—and smiling—Jimmy Hart.

"Shut up! Just shut up!" Pillman barked. "Next time? Anderson is the one who got a next time. I got a hollow victory and a triple-team beating, pal!"

"Where's Hulk?" he calmly asked the colorful manager.

"In his dressing room, preparing for his match," responded Hart. "You probably don't want to bother him now."

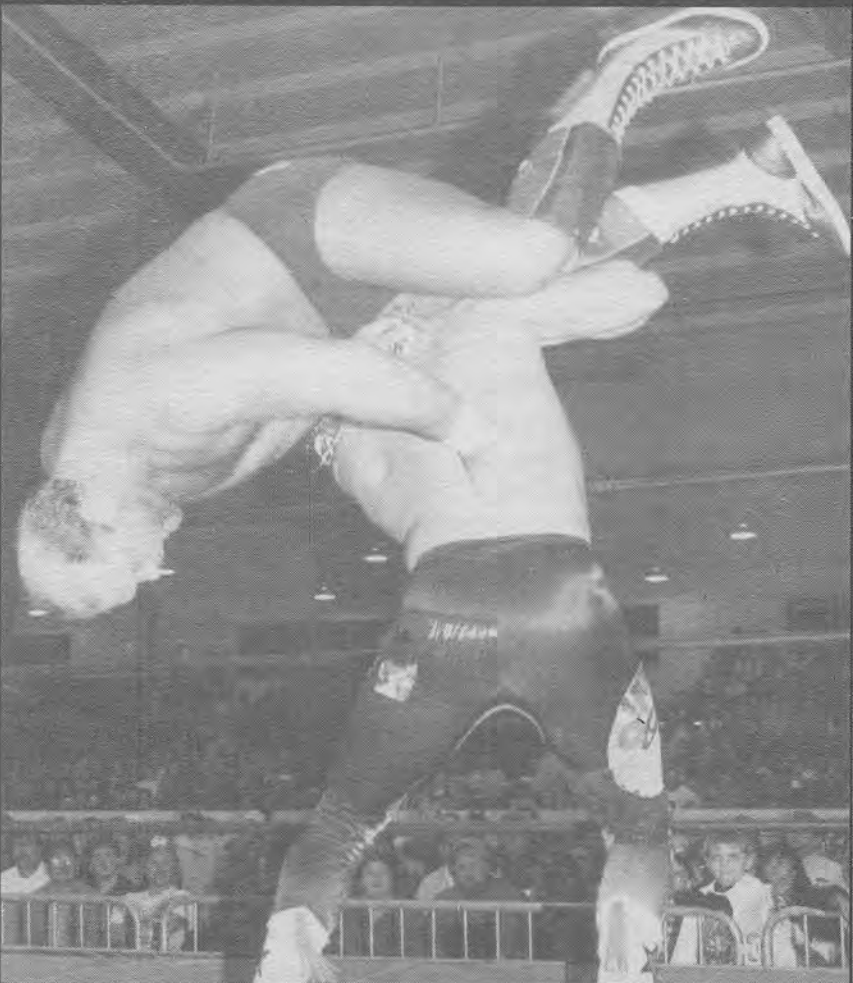
As he walked toward Hogan's door, he's was heard to be murmuring something about California.

Not much was heard behind closed doors. But the mood had to be tense. The conversation moved outside when Pillman abruptly stormed out of the champ's dressing room. Hogan was right behind him.

"Listen, brother, I'm tryin' to give you some advice," pleaded Hogan.



Pillman warned Meng and Col. Parker not to get involved, but there was no one there to stop them from doing it. Their interference cost Brian the TV belt.



Those who watched the match said Pillman looked especially energetic and enthusiastic. He also dominated most of the match. But he's starting to feel that wrestling within the rules just isn't paying off at all for him.



Anderson had the tailbone to withstand Pillman's offensive maneuver, but he didn't have the backbone to try to defend his TV title on his own. Pillman was not satisfied with his hollow DQ victory, and who could blame him?



Shortly before he took time off and headed to California, Pillman wrestled once in ECW ... where he battled 2 Cold Scorpio as a rulebreaker. If things don't change soon, look for him to return to rulebreaking full-time.

"I'm listening!" Pillman fumed. "You told me not to go back to rule-breaking. I listened. You told me winning fair-and-square is the only way to succeed. I listened. Well, all I know is that I had Anderson beat. But he left with the belt, and I left with a bunch of bruises and a headache."

"There you go again, Brian," Hogan argued. "That type of talk is dangerous. You don't want to walk down that path again. What did breaking the rules ever get you?"

"A WCW World tag team title," Pillman interrupted. "Tonight I was triple-teamed solely because I was a fan favorite. It was easy for Arn. No conscience. No fear of what the fans thought about him."

"But, Brian, the fans ..."

"I like the fans," Pillman again interrupted, "but the fans want to see winners. How in the world am I ever gonna be World champion if somebody else's rulebreaking is gonna stand in my way. You know how long it's been since I had a crack at your belt?"

The room grew deadly silent. Pillman seemed to be drawing a line in the sand. As the "Hulkster" drew nearer to Pillman, his ring entrance music started.

"We'll finish this later. Don't leave before my match is done," Hogan seemed to *demand* of Pillman.

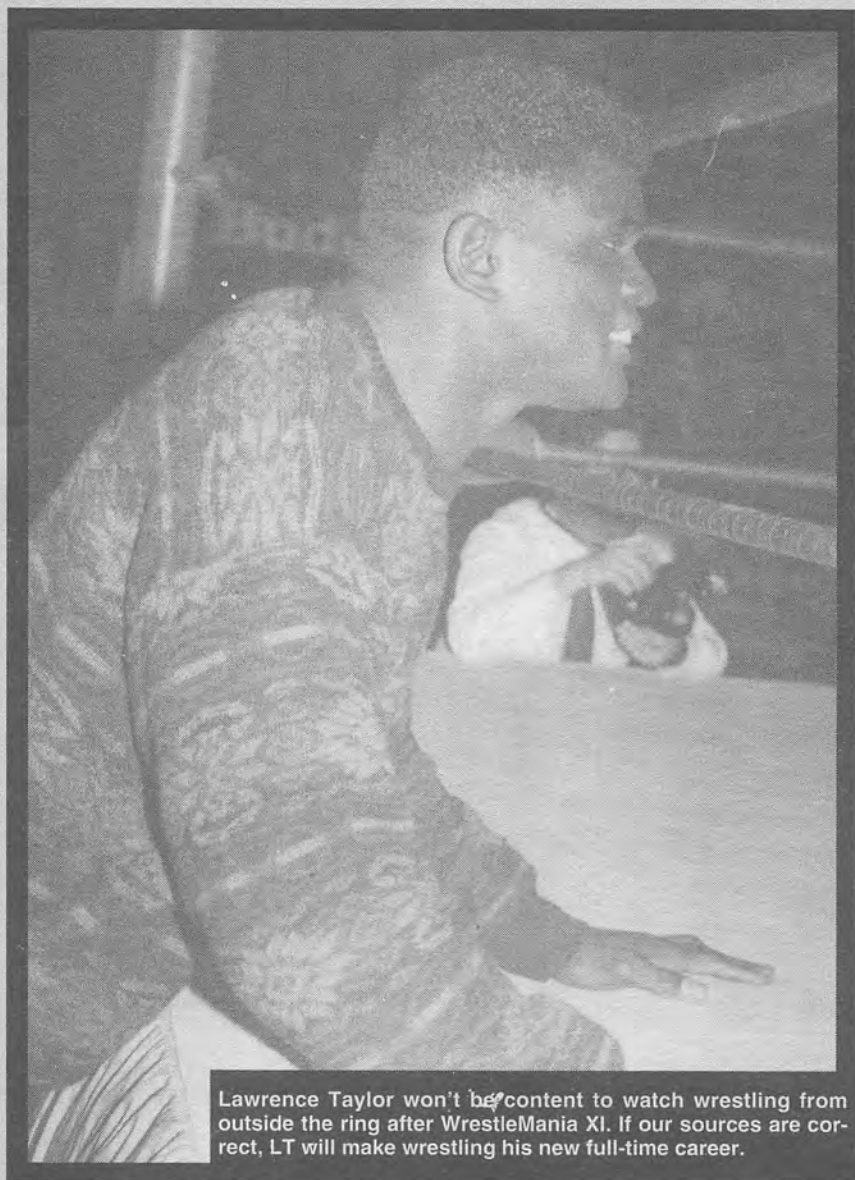
Pillman only stayed around long enough to sum up his sentiments. "Look," he shouted. "I'm competitive. I've been like this since I played football. If a formula isn't working, I'll change it. Hogan said 'Give my way a shot.' Well, I listened to him. But the day is coming when I have to listen to Brian Pillman and do what's best for him."

That will be a sad day for a lot of people, and Hulk Hogan will be among them. □

LT

Doesn't Mean Last Time

The remarkable
competitive
spirit of
Lawrence Taylor
makes it
unrealistic to
believe that his
WrestleMania XI
showdown with
Bam Bam
Bigelow was his
last match



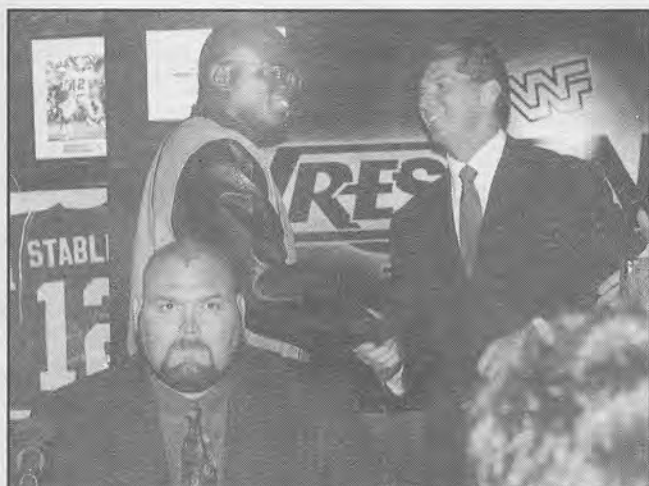
Lawrence Taylor won't be content to watch wrestling from outside the ring after WrestleMania XI. If our sources are correct, LT will make wrestling his new full-time career.

LAWRENCE TAYLOR

Will Be Back After

WRESTLEMANIA

By Chris Bernucca



Taylor was pretty chummy with WWF head Vince McMahon at the WrestleMania XI press conference (above). You can't blame him—McMahon could be his future boss. He wasn't so chummy with Bam Bam Bigelow (below), a man he hates.



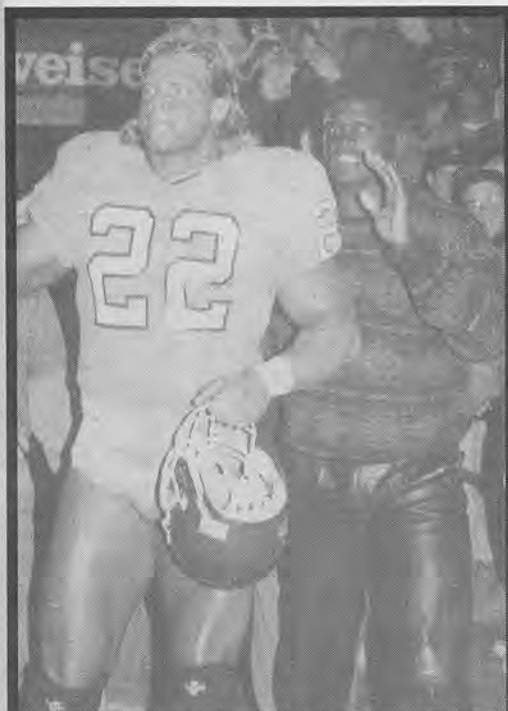
IF YOU THINK Lawrence Taylor's appearance at WrestleMania XI was a one-shot deal, you had better think again.

Taylor's match against Bam Bam Bigelow may have been the first in what becomes an illustrious second career. After using his relentless pursuit and ferocity to dominate the National Football League for more than a decade, Taylor appears poised to do the same in the WWF. Sources close to Taylor say there a number of reasons why his interest in the sport is serious and his involvement will be more than a singular celebrity appearance.

"Lawrence wants to wrestle," said one WWF fan favorite. "He's taking things slowly, but he doesn't want to be a one-match wonder, either. He's serious about becoming a good wrestler. Make that a championship wrestler!"

Taylor has been dropped from his position on the football broadcasting team of Turner Network Television, which covers the first nine Sunday night games of each NFL season. TNT decided to make some changes in its pregame show, and Taylor, it seems, did not fit into those plans. His decision to appear at WrestleMania had nothing to do with his dismissal, a Turner spokesman said. Some people suggested it did, though, since Ted Turner owns both TNT and World Championship Wrestling.

But if Taylor was just going to wrestle one match in the WWF, he probably could have worked out a deal as a commentator for another network. But becoming a full-time wrestler means making a full-time commitment, and TNT's decision to drop him



LT accompanied Lex Luger to the ring for a football helmet match against Mr. Hughes in New Jersey in 1991. Sources say even back then, Taylor was talking like a man who wanted to be a full-time wrestler someday.

just made it easier for Taylor to make a decision.

"He couldn't be serious about wrestling if he had to spend nine weeks on the road with another job," said an executive familiar with Taylor's situation at TNT. "And he couldn't be serious about announcing if he was involved with a new career. It truly was best for both sides."

Neither the match against Bigelow nor the confrontation at the 1995 Royal Rumble preceding it represented Taylor's introduction to the sport. In 1991, he was in the corner of Lex Luger for a football helmet match against Mr. Hughes and became fascinated by the sport.

Taylor loved the physical nature, the excitement, and, of course, the spotlight. Both on and off the football field, he has always loved being the center of attention. And unlike football, he

didn't have to share the arena with 10 teammates and 11 opponents. In wrestling, there was no holding, no teams running plays away from him, no place to hide. For Taylor, the ultimate man, wrestling was the ultimate test of manhood.

"He was really excited," said Terry Taylor, who wrestled in WCW at the time. "He couldn't stop talking about it. He was asking a million questions, as if he wanted to quit football and become a wrestler. Somebody asked him if he thought he was Bo Jackson."

Based on his showing at WrestleMania, we are not about to anoint two-sport superstar status upon

Taylor. For now, that is reserved for men like Jackson and Deion Sanders, who have excelled at baseball and football. Besides, the transition from football to

wrestling is not that tough. Just ask Big Van Vader, Steve Williams, or Brian Pillman, all of whom have been very successful as wrestlers after stellar football careers.

"A lot of the same principles are involved, especially if you played close to the line of scrimmage," said a surprisingly calm and candid Vader, who was an All-American offensive lineman at the University of Colorado before a knee injury deprived him of a top-notch NFL career. "A big difference is that in football, quickness can sometimes neutralize strength. In wrestling, it rarely works that way. Take it from someone who knows."

Taylor also has a special driving force in his quest to become a wrestler—his son, who is a huge fan of the WWF and its wrestlers. Taylor sees the interest his son has in the sport and would like nothing more than to have his son root for his father.

There is also the matter of money. The figure of \$500,000

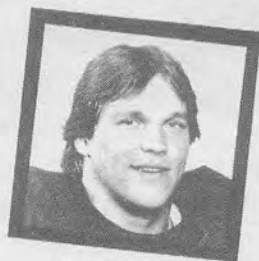


Paul E. Dangerously probably taught LT a little about the sport when the two got together in WCW. Let's hope he learned something from Paul E. if he is serious about winning championships in wrestling.

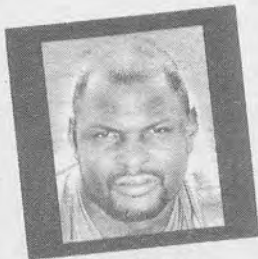
LT's ALL-PRO TEAM



KEN NORTON JR.
SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS



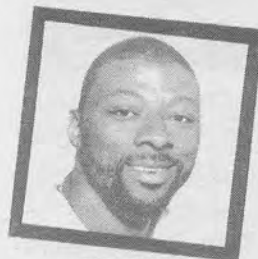
STEVE McMICHAEL
GREEN BAY PACKERS



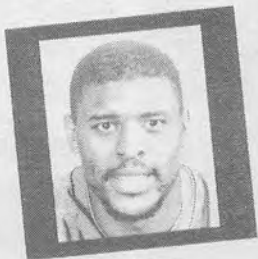
RICKY JACKSON
SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS



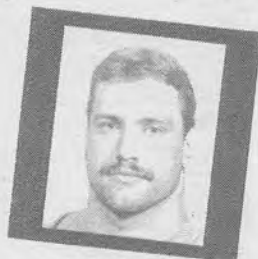
LAWRENCE TAYLOR



CARL BANKS
CLEVELAND BROWNS



REGGIE WHITE
GREEN BAY PACKERS



CHRIS SPIELMAN
DETROIT LIONS



WRESTLEMANIA XI



WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION®

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Taylor was joined by his "All-Pro" team for this WWF WrestleMania XI publicity release. Maybe there is a potential tag team partner among them.

Taylor reportedly received for his match against Bigelow was greatly inflated. Sources put his actual fee at less than one-third of that number, which makes more sense when considering pay-per-view buy rates.

"If Taylor was paid half a million dollars for one match, do you know what kind of stink that would create among the WWF's established stars?" said Taylor, who

has been at that level in the WWF. "You'd have guys like Diesel and Bret Hart and Shawn Michaels marching into Vince McMahon's office and demanding more money or quitting on the spot. Then what does McMahon do?"

Even though one-third of \$500,000 is a lot of money, it's not enough on which to retire. Taylor has never been much for retirement, anyway. A torn Achilles ten-

don midway through what was to be his last season provided the impetus for him to return for yet another year. Given his interest in wrestling, his desire to be in the spotlight, and the potential for future earnings, a high-profile match on pay-per-view television should be plenty to lure him back to the ring for another tussle.

And another. And another. And another ...



SCRAPBOOK

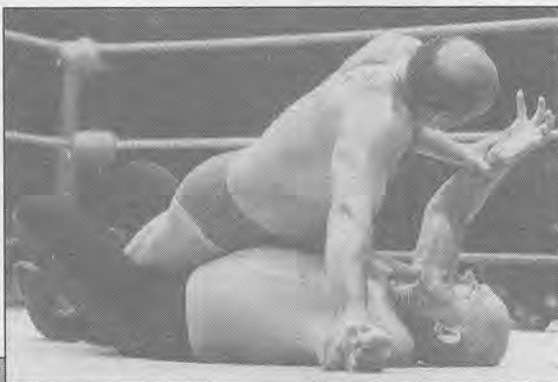
Explore with us the rich history of this great sport as we recall the important news stories at five-year intervals dating back a quarter of a century.

**JULY/AUGUST
1970**

THE MONGOLS (COMBINED weight 580 pounds) ripped through all competition in the WWF. Having already captured the tag team title from Victor Rivera and Tony Marino, The Mongols, under their new manager, Capt. Lou Albano, wanted nothing less than to bring added business to the area's hospitals. The fans cried out for World heavyweight champion Bruno

Sammartino to put an end to the terror—and Bruno responded. For the first time in several years, Bruno did not defend his title at Madison Square Garden. Instead, he defended the entire federation: Before 17,864 fans, Bruno and Victor Rivera gave The Mongols the worst beating they had ever

Raschke ... A battle between two of the all-time greats, Bobo Brazil and Dr. Bill Miller, ended in a 20-minute draw ... Ray Stevens scored the biggest victory of his career when he defeated his former tag team partner Pat Patterson for the U.S. championship in San Francisco ... Jack Brisco continued to climb the NWA ratings (Dory Funk Jr. reigned as champion) with a victory over Dale Lewis in Tampa, Florida.



AWA World champion Verne Gagne struggled to keep Baron Von Raschke from applying his dreaded clawhold back in 1970. Gagne retained his title in a best-of-three-falls bout.

taken. Though one fall was won by disqualification and the title did not change hands, the fans gave their favorites a standing ovation for their work ... On that same card, Crusher Verdu defeated Gorilla Monsoon when the 400-pounder could not beat a 10-count back into the ring ... In Chicago, Mad Dog and Butcher Vachon defended their AWA World tag team title by defeating Crusher and Bruiser in a best-of-three-falls steel cage match ... Verne Gagne retained his AWA World championship by taking two of three falls from Baron Von

**JULY/AUGUST
1975**

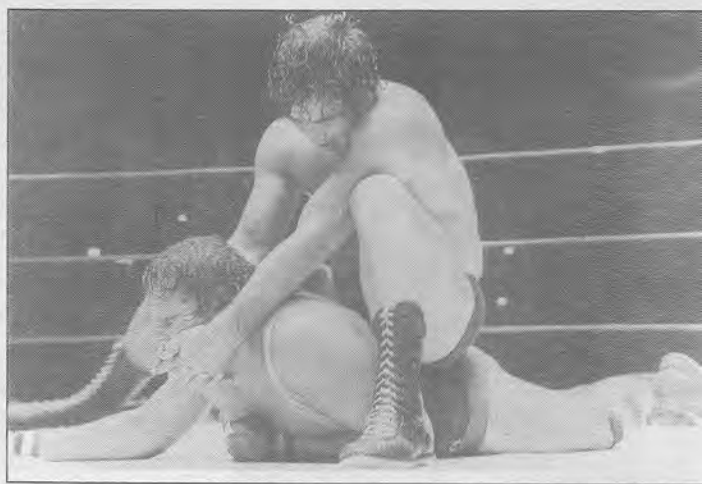
A CAPACITY CROWD at the West Palm Beach Auditorium saw NWA World champion Jack Brisco and challenger Bob Roop battle to a classic 60-minute draw. The two former NCAA champions gave a display of scientific wrestling never before seen in a professional match in Florida ... In Tampa, Florida, Roop threw away the rulebook to try to take advantage of young Bob Backlund. Before Backlund was seriously injured, however, he received help from Terry Funk ... In Boston, Spiros Arion and Bruno Sammartino were battling outside the ring when Spiros beat the 20-count back into the ring, leaving Sammartino at ringside with a countout loss ... Blackjack Mulligan and Blackjack Lanza won the WWF World tag team title from



Back in 1970, The Mongols were terrorizing everyone in the WWF. By popular demand, WWF World champion Bruno Sammartino took on a partner (Victor Rivera) and thrashed Croatian terrors.

"Irish" Pat Barrett and Dominic DeNucci on August 26 in Philadelphia ... Bobby Heenan nearly bled to death when he tried to interfere in a match on behalf of Ray Stevens. The incident occurred when Stevens battled Pepper Gomez in a steel cage match. As Gomez began to take the advantage, Heenan climbed into the ring and tried to attack Gomez with a plastic knife. Gomez, though, was prepared for the attack. He grabbed the knife from Heenan and sliced up the manager's face. Bobby was rushed to the hospital, where it took 35 stitches and a transfusion to save his life ... Capt. Lou Albano swapped the contracts of the Valiant brothers for Bobby Heenan's Blackjacks, Lanza and Mulligan. Albano also signed

Bugsy McGraw ... A tag team match pitting Mil Mascaras and Mighty Igor against Ivan Koloff and Bulldog Brower ended in a double-disqualification with all four wrestlers battling outside the ring ... Greg Gagne and Jim Brunzell got their wish: They were granted a crack at Ray Stevens and Nick Bockwinkel's AWA World tag team championship—with Bobby Heenan barred from ringside. It seemed as though the popular pair



One of the best matches of 1975 saw NWA World champion Jack Brisco battle Bob Roop to a draw in a classic 60-minute match. Roop was also terrorizing a young Bob Backlund at the time.



Mil Mascaras' flying splash hit its mark when he faced Ivan Koloff in a tag team match. Mascaras and Mighty Igor battled Koloff and Bulldog Brower to a double-disqualification.

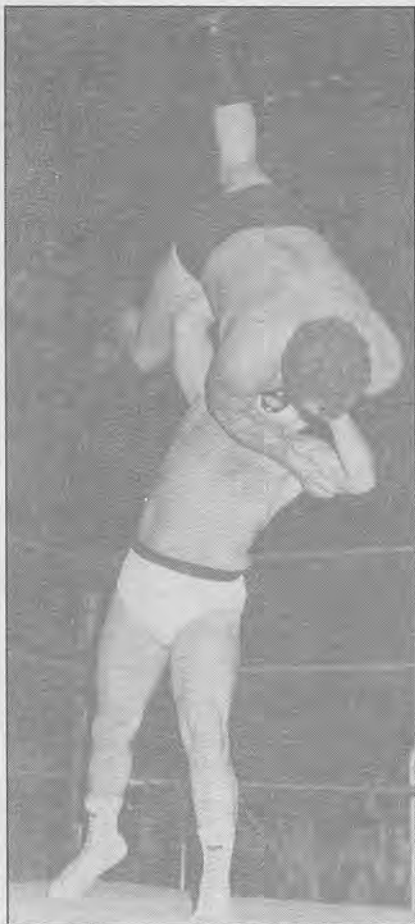
would come away with the belts when Gagne caught Stevens in a sleeperhold. Bockwinkel, however, interfered, and the subsequent disqualification kept the belts from changing hands.

NWA RATINGS: 1—Jack Brisco; 2—Shohei "Giant" Baba; 3—Harley Race; 4—Dory Funk Jr.; 5—Paul Jones; 6—The Sheik; 7—Terry Funk; 8—Johnny Valentine; 9—Jerry Lawler; 10—Jose Lothario.

WWF RATINGS: 1—Bruno Sammartino; 2—Mongolian Stomper; 3—George Steele; 4—Waldo Von Erich; 5—Spiros Arion; 6—Chief Jay Strongbow; 7—Ivan Putski; 8—Bugsy McGraw; 9—Victor Rivera; 10—Gorilla Monsoon.

AWA RATINGS: 1—Verne Gagne; 2—Billy Robinson; 3—Baron Von Raschke; 4—Nick Bockwinkel; 5—Ray Stevens; 6—Ivan Putski; 7—Dusty Rhodes; 8—Horst Hoffman; 9—Greg Gagne; 10—Boris Breshnikov.

TAG TEAM RATINGS: 1—The Blackjacks; 2—The Mongols; 3—Ray Stevens & Nick Bockwinkel; 4—Victor Rivera & Dominic DeNucci; 5—Ole & Gene Anderson; 6—Roger Kirby & Jim



Mr. Wrestling II came oh-so-close to winning the NWA World title from Harley Race in 1980. He pinned Race, but didn't win the belt because a substitute referee had made the three-count.

Dillon; 7—The Valiants; 8—Goliath & Black Gordman; 9—The Invaders; 10—Paul Jones & Wahoo McDaniel.

JULY/AUGUST 1980

VERNE GAGNE BEAT Nick Bockwinkel in Chicago on August 7 to begin his ninth AWA World title reign ... Mr. Wrestling II came within a hair's breadth of taking the NWA World belt away from champion Harley Race. Wrestling II had thrashed Race from the opening bell and seemed on his way to victory. The referee became entangled between the two combat-

ants and was thrown to the concrete floor, where he was knocked unconscious. Another referee hurried into the ring just in time to administer the three-count on the fallen Race and raise Wrestling II's arm in victory. II walked away from the ring with the belt in his hands, only to be informed moments later that because an alternate referee finished the match, the match was not for the title. Wrestling II tearfully returned the belt ... Before 26,102 fans—the largest crowd in the history of Madison Square Garden up to that time—Bruno Sammartino was disqualified when he literally tried to choke the life out of former protege Larry Zbyszko. "I snapped," Bruno admitted after the match ... Ric Flair and Jimmy Snuka engaged in a wild melee in Greensboro, North Carolina, for the U.S. title. The match ended with Snuka being counted out of the ring ... No one had yet collected the \$1,000 that Jerry Blackwell was offering to the first person who could bodyslam him.

NWA RATINGS: 1—Harley Race; 2—Dustin Rhodes; 3—Ric Flair; 4—Mr. Wrestling II; 5—Don Muraco; 6—Austin Idol; 7—Kevin

Von Erich; 8—Jim Brunzell; 9—Leroy Brown; 10—Stan Stasiak.

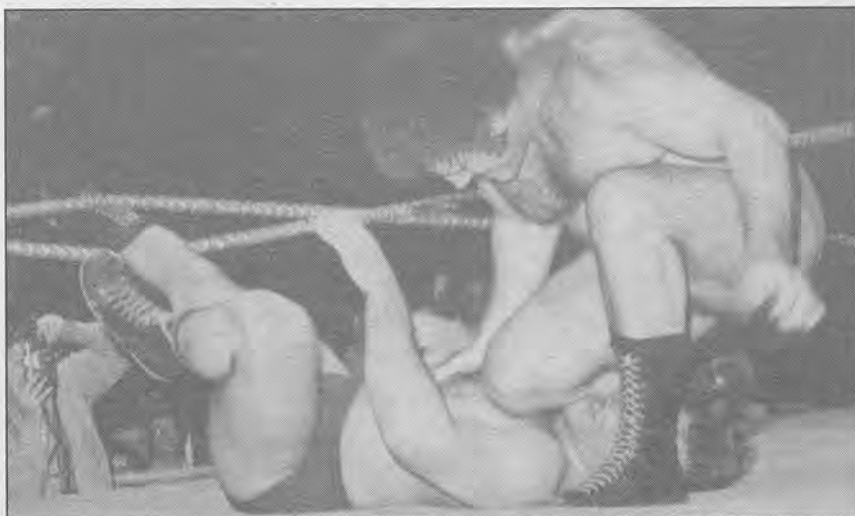
WWF RATINGS: 1—Bob Backlund; 2—Larry Zbyszko; 3—Hulk Hogan; 4—Ken Patera; 5—Pat Patterson; 6—Ivan Putski; 7—Tony Atlas; 8—Pedro Morales; 9—Tito Santana; 10—Bobby Duncum.

AWA RATINGS: 1—Verne Gagne; 2—Crusher; 3—Dino Bravo; 4—Nick Bockwinkel; 5—Greg Gagne; 6—Billy Robinson; 7—Mad Dog Vachon; 8—Jesse Ventura; 9—Jerry Lawler; 10—Adrian Adonis.

TAG TEAM RATINGS: 1—The Samoans; 2—Greg Valentine & Ray Stevens; 3—Verne Gagne & Mad Dog Vachon; 4—Jack Brisco & Jim Garvin; 5—Kevin Sullivan & Tony Atlas; 6—Ivan Putski & Tito Santana; 7—Masked Superstars; 8—Mr. Hito & Mr. Sakurada; 9—Ivan Koloff & Alexis Smirnov; 10—Tommy & Eddie Gilbert.

JULY/AUGUST 1985

WITH THE HELP of his valet, Baby Doll, Tully Blanchard defeated Magnum T.A. on July 21 to win the



Bruno Sammartino wrestled like a savage when he took on Larry Zbyszko in 1980. He was disqualified when he refused to stop choking his former protege.



Tully Blanchard needed help from his crafty valet, Baby Doll, and a roll of coins to beat Magnum T.A. for the NWA U.S. title in 1985.

the wrestling world by choosing the previously unknown Elizabeth as his manager ... Ric Flair began circulating a petition asking World Class officials not to sanction anymore NWA World title matches with the Von Erichs. It read in part, "We believe that such matches can only cause the Von Erichs definite and serious physi-

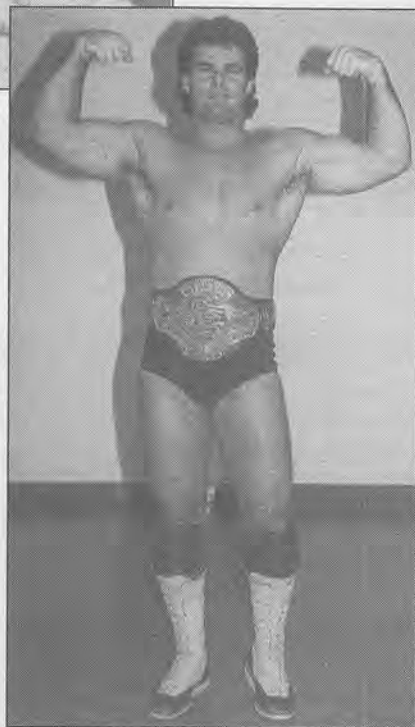
Rotundo in Philadelphia after Beefcake rubbed a lit cigar handed to him by manager Johnny Valiant in Windham's eye ... For the first time in 14 years, wrestling matches were held in Alaska, courtesy of the AWA ... Harley Race won an unprecedented seventh Missouri title when he regained the belt from Jerry Blackwell on August 2 in St. Louis.

NWA RATINGS: 1—Ric Flair; 2—Tully Blanchard; 3—Dusty Rhodes; 4—Nikita Koloff; 5—Black Bart; 6—Rick Rude; 7—Kerry Von Erich; 8—Magnum T.A.; 9—Iceman Parsons; 10—Harley Race.

WWF RATINGS: 1—Hulk Hogan; 2—Tito Santana; 3—Magnificent Muraco; 4—Rick Steamboat; 5—Randy Savage; 6—Paul Orndorff; 7—Roddy Piper; 8—Junkyard Dog; 9—John Studd; 10—Bob Orton.

AWA RATINGS: 1—Rick Martel; 2—Sgt. Slaughter; 3—Larry Zbyszko; 4—Michael Hayes; 5—Nick Bockwinkel; 6—Jim Garvin; 7—Greg Gagne; 8—Kamala; 9—Buck Zumhofe; 10—Ray Stevens.

TAG TEAM RATINGS: 1—The Road Warriors; 2—The Rock 'n' Roll Express; 3—Greg Valentine & Brutus Beefcake; 4—Chris Adams & Gino Hernandez; 5—Ole & Arn Anderson; 6—Al Perez & Wendell Cooley; 7—The Midnight Express; 8—Barry Windham & Mike Rotundo; 9—Wahoo McDaniel & Billy Jack Haynes; 10—Jonathan Boyd & Rip Morgan.



Brian Adias showed off the Texas championship belt in Fort Worth, Texas, after he put an end to Gino Hernandez' reign.

U.S. title in Charlotte, North Carolina. Disguised as a security guard, Baby Doll slipped a roll of coins to Blanchard from ringside ... Tito Santana regained the Intercontinental title by defeating Greg Valentine in a steel cage match on July 6 in Baltimore. Valentine was so angry that he ripped the title belt to shreds ... After Hercules Hernandez abruptly vacated both the Florida and the Southern titles, tournaments were established to determine new champions. Rick Rude captured the Southern belt, while Jack Hart won the Florida championship ... The Rock 'n' Roll Express won their first NWA World title with a victory over Ivan Koloff and Krusher Khrushchev in on July 9 in Shelby, North Carolina ... Brian Adias ended Gino Hernandez' lengthy Texas title reign with a July 29 victory in Fort Worth ... Randy Savage shocked

cal injury." Flair himself was the only one to sign it ... Adrian Street outraged Southeast area wrestlers by painting the Southeast title belt pink ... Greg Valentine and Brutus Beefcake captured the WWF World tag team title on August 24 from Barry Windham and Mike

**JULY/AUGUST
1990**

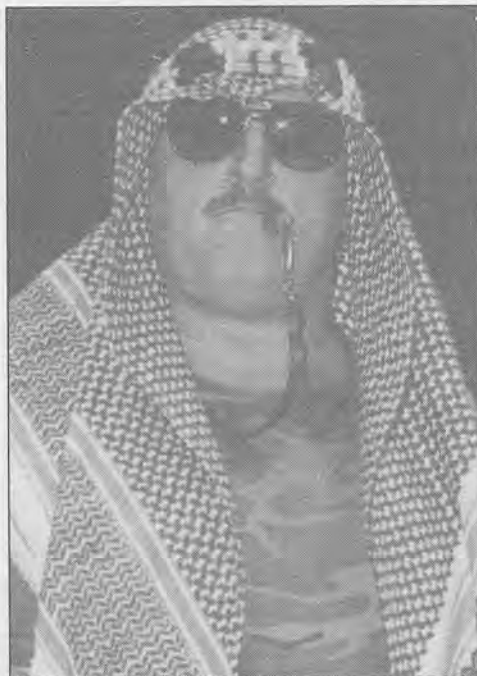
TWO OF THE WWF's titles changed hands at Summer-Slam on August 27 in



The power of Kerry Von Erch was too much for "Mr. Perfect" Curt Hennig to take. The "Texas Tornado" pinned Hennig to win the Intercontinental title at SummerSlam '90.

Philadelphia. Kerry Von Erch defeated "Mr. Perfect" Curt Hennig for the Intercontinental title after Hennig's head was slammed into an iron ringpost. The Hart Foundation won the World tag team title from Demolition in a best-of-three-falls bout, even though they won one fall by disqualification ... Catch Wrestling Association champ Otto Wanz retained his title in a retirement match against Big Van Vader (Only Wanz agreed to retire if he lost) ... Jim Cornette became angry with Bobby Eaton, a member of his Midnight Express. Eaton had brawled with Sid Vicious after Sid interfered in one of the Express' matches and accidentally floored Eaton's partner, Stan Lane ... Dustin Rhodes arrived in the WWF to assist his father, Dusty, in a feud with Virgil and Ted DiBiase, who had "bought" the services of Dusty's former manager Sapphire

up Tessa and ripped most of her clothes off after a match in



Sgt. Slaughter had a radical change in attitude in 1990. The former Marine drill instructor returned to the WWF, but swore off his allegiances to America.

... Tully Blanchard announced his retirement from wrestling, saying he intended to "spread the gospel of Jesus Christ" ... Jesse Ventura left the WWF's broadcast booth in order to pursue acting opportunities ... AWA World champion Larry Zbyszko showed up at an NWA TV taping in Georgia and challenged NWA World champ Sting to a title-unification match ... A USWA feud between Tessa and "Dirty White Girl" Kimberly heated up after Kimberly beat

Memphis ... Lex Luger was viciously attacked by The Four Horsemen—Ric Flair, Arn Anderson, Sid Vicious, and Barry Windham—in the parking lot before an NWA TV taping ... Sgt. Slaughter returned to the WWF as a nasty rulebreaker under the management of Gen. Adnan. He dominated a feud with popular Russian Nikolai Volkoff ... Rick and Scott Steiner won the NWA U.S. tag team title from The Midnight Express on August 24 in East Rutherford, New Jersey ... Chris Adams and his wife, Toni, were involved in a feud with Steve Austin and Jeannie, Adams' ex-wife, in Texas.

NWA RATINGS: 1—Sting; 2—Lex Luger; 3—Ric Flair; 4—Sid Vicious; 5—Arn Anderson; 6—Stan Hansen; 7—Mark Callous; 8—Big Van Vader; 9—Brian Pillman; 10—Barry Windham.

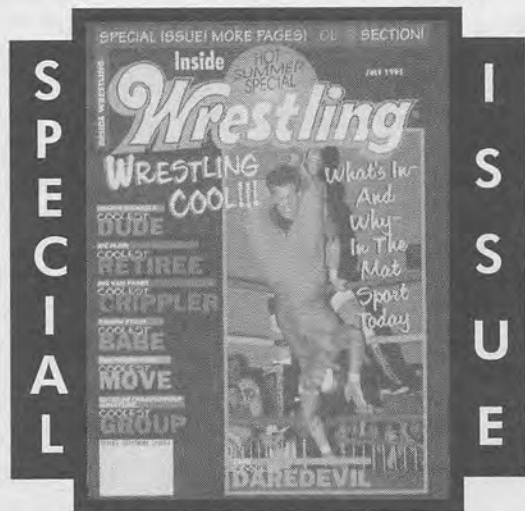
WWF RATINGS: 1—The Ultimate Warrior; 2—Kerry Von Erch; 3—Hulk Hogan; 4—Rick Rude; 5—Curt Hennig; 6—Avalanche; 7—Randy Savage; 8—Jake Roberts; 9—Big Bossman; 10—The Warlord.

AWA RATINGS: 1—Larry Zbyszko; 2—B. Brian Blair; 3—Baron Von Raschke; 4—Harley Race; 5—Brad Rheingans; 6—Buck Zumhofe; 7—Col. DeBeers; 8—Jonnie Stewart; 9—Tommy Jammer; 10—Curtis Hughes.

TAG TEAM RATINGS: 1—Doom; 2—The Hart Foundation; 3—Rick & Scott Steiner; 4—Demolition; 5—The Rock 'n' Roll Express; 6—The Midnight Express; 7—Brian Pillman & Tom Zenk; 8—Tracey Smothers & Steve Armstrong; 9—D.J. Peterson & The Trooper; 10—Al Madril & Ricky Santana. □

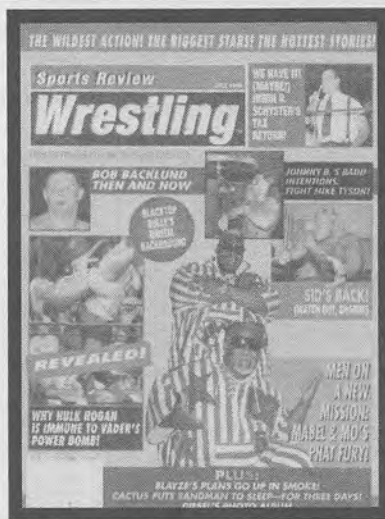
this month in...

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Sports Review

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What's cool in the mat sport today? Well, a lot of things are! **SABU** is the coolest daredevil, **TAMARA MURPHY FYTCH** is the coolest babe—and the list goes on and on. Don't miss our special 19-page section of "Wrestling Cool"; we'll also tell you what's not cool! ... **RANDY SAVAGE** and **STING** have formed one of WCW's hottest tag teams, thanks to us! ... **PAUL ROMA** is in the market for a new tag team partner. On the top of his list (believe it or not!) is **ALEX WRIGHT**

All this—and much more!—in the July 1995 issue of *Inside Wrestling*



How could a trip to Japan have made **HULK HOGAN** immune to **BIG VAN VADER'S** power bomb? We'll tell you! ... **JOHNNY B. BADD** isn't through with his boxing career. There's a fighter named **MIKE TYSON**, and Johnny B. is talking about challenging him ... Would you believe us if we said we had **IRWIN R. SCHYSTER'S** tax return? We think we do! ... Only someone like **CACTUS JACK** could put **THE SANDMAN** to sleep for three days. You couldn't imagine what happened when he woke up!

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

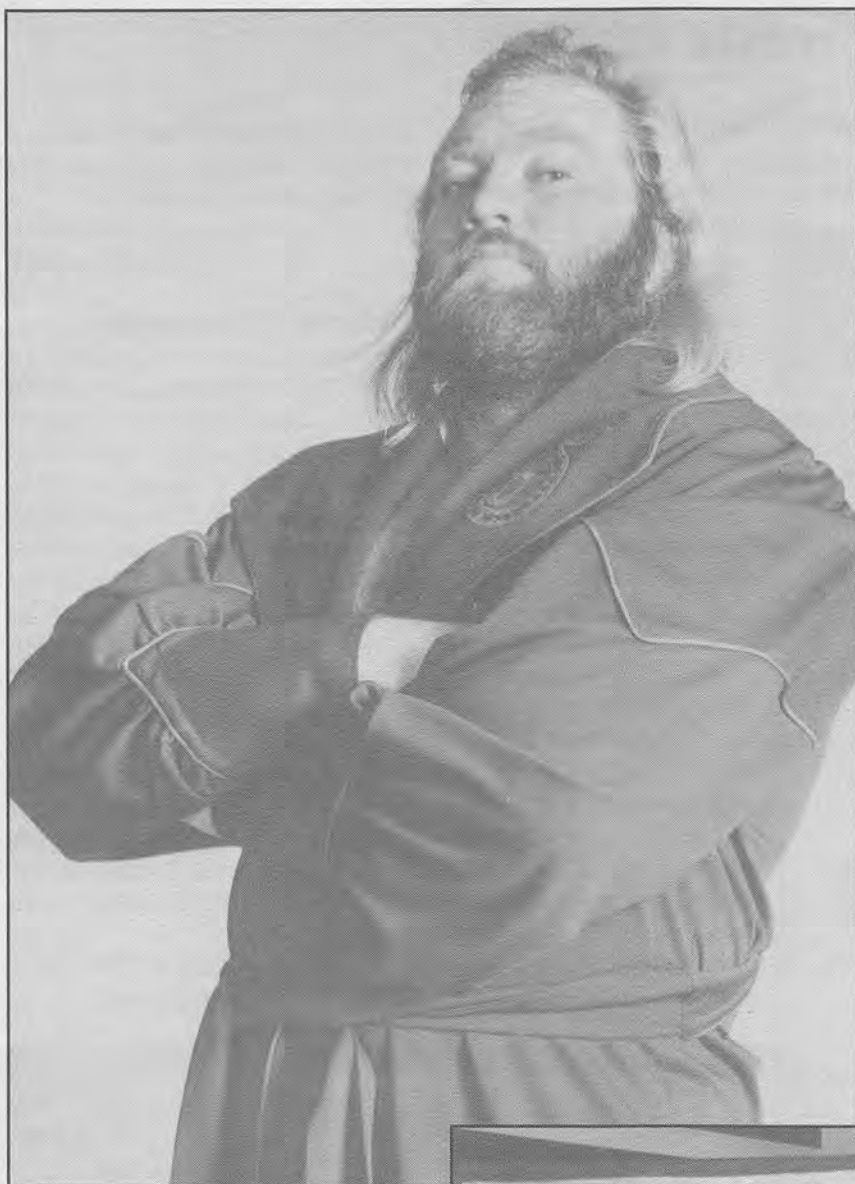
(Continued from page 7)

ous injury when they beat him in the chest with the championship belt. A rematch is planned, but Kid shouldn't have to worry about Fargo. This will be a cage match ... **Paul E. Dangerously** is calling **Marty Jannetty** a "coward" after Jannetty failed to show up for his scheduled match against **Sabu** in Philadelphia. Jannetty claims he just had airline problems and doesn't fear anyone. As of press time, Jannetty had not signed for another match against Sabu.

Sid Vicious tells me he's very happy being the bodyguard for **Shawn Michaels**. "The money is great, and the partying is great," he shouted. "Shawn's a real cool guy, just like me!" ... **Al Snow** has been teaming with **Unibomb** in Smoky Mountain Wrestling. They are after the Rock 'n' Rolls, the SMW tag champs ... **Tommy Dreamer** is involved in a bloody war with **Johnny "The Raven" Polo** in ECW ... **Henry Godwinn**, the hog farmer who started out



Miguel Perez Jr. has been wrestling in Puerto Rico and various American independents for years. He might have finally gotten his big break this spring, as he has been signed by the WWF.



Another one of wrestling's great stars of the 1980s is gone. Big John Studd died in March after a battle with Hodgkin's disease. Studd, who was best-known for his feud with Andre the Giant, was 46 years old.

strong in the WWF, is on a losing streak. He has suffered losses to both **Razor Ramon** and **Davey Boy Smith** recently.

If he has not been completely written out of his parent's will yet, **Owen Hart** must be very close to it. **Stu** and **Helen Hart** are more furious than ever now that Owen is teaming frequently with **Jerry Lawler**. "The King" has fired insult after insult at Stu and Helen during the last two years.

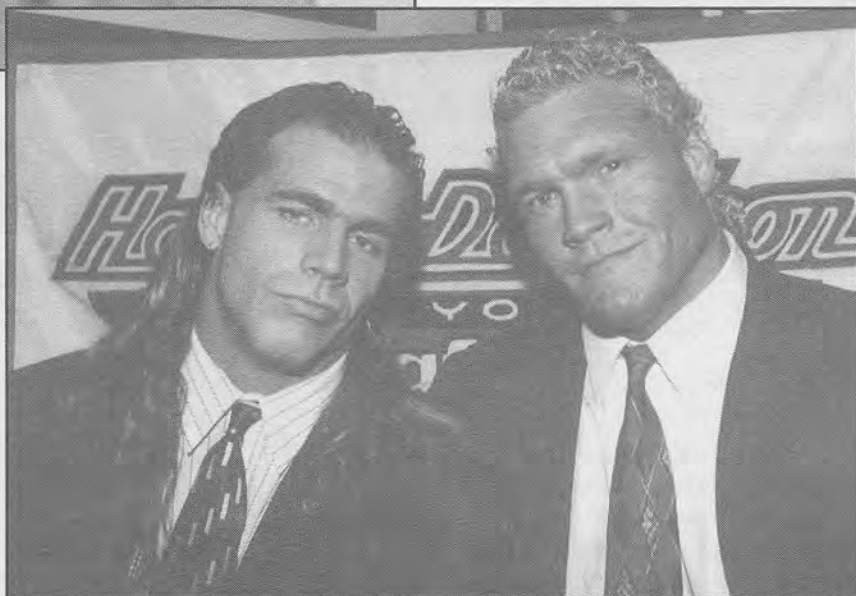
"All the insults Lawler threw at

us, all the aggravation ... we just cannot believe Owen's friendly with him," a saddened Helen Hart commented.

"What I do is my business, and the family has to say out of it," Owen responded. "I love my parents, but they have to leave my career alone!"

On a sad note, wrestling lost a well-known and much-respected athlete on March 21. **Big John Studd** succumbed to Hodgkin's disease, a form of cancer, in Fairfax, Virginia.

I first met John in the early-'70s when he was wrestling under the name **Chuck O'Connor**. His dream was to wrestle **Pedro Morales** for the WWF World title. I predicted at that time that Studd would become a major star. Although he wrestled in the NWA and in other promotions, his greatest days were in the WWF, where he had a classic feud with **Andre the Giant**. Studd also appeared in films such as *Harley Davidson And The Marlboro Man* and *Mickey And Maude*. He also became a regular in the Fox TV series *The Dirty Dozen*. His final match took place in 1993, against **The Honky Tonk Man**. Studd was 46 years old. □

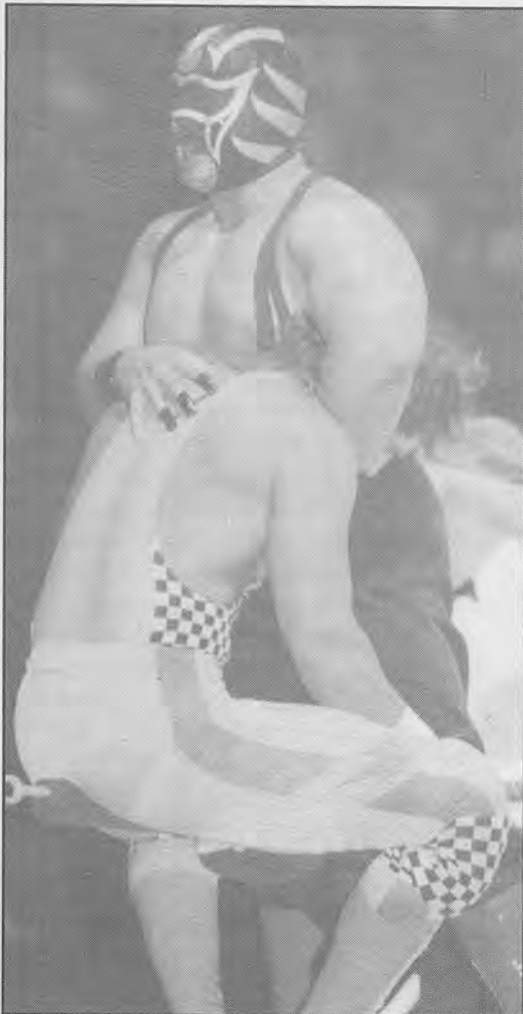


You may have heard rumors that Sid Vicious, Shawn Michaels' new bodyguard, is just using Shawn and intends to turn against him. Not so, says Sid, who claims he is having the time of his life in his new position.

YOUR LETTERS

(Continued from page 5)

watch Hogan mount a comeback during a match and find a way to win?



WCW may be getting a lot of attention with Hulk Hogan and Randy Savage wrestling there, but the WWF has better young stars, like Kwang and Bob Holly, writes Rennie Detore.

Instead of banking on the old, the WWF has signed such young stars as The Kid, Bob "Spark Plugg" Holly, Kwang, and Hakushi. Sure, they might not be well-known right now, but give them a few years. I think they fit in nicely with the WWF. While the WCW is aging, the WWF is blasting off into the next decade of wrestling.

RENNIE DETORE
Greensburg, PA

WHAT'S NEXT?

After reading "Extreme? Extremely Boring! Shane Douglas vs. Tully Blanchard Was Not Fit For ECW" (May 1995), I realized that ECW fans aren't fans of wrestling, but fans of blood and gore. The Douglas-Blanchard match was one based upon pure wrestling skill and technical maneuvers. These fans booed it because they are used to the hardcore violence of The Pit Bulls, Cactus Jack, and others. If a match doesn't have blood, it's not worth watching for these fans.

I wonder what these fans would do if they saw some of the classic matches of the 1960s and 1970s when Russian chain matches were considered brutal specialty matches. Today's fans are

just numbed to extreme violence. If this trend continues, where will that lead wrestling in the future?

STAN HERRIN
Tulsa, OK

TRIBUTE TO McMAHON

I think it is time the entire wrestling community—including WCW—pays tribute to Vince McMahon. It has been more than 10 years since Vince put wrestling in the national spotlight. He did so by giving a young star named Hulk Hogan a shot at the WWF World title. Vince knows talent when he sees it. He knew that with his guidance, Hogan could lead wrestling into the year 2000. He gave half of today's WCW wrestlers their first break at stardom, plus most of the announcers. These people repay Vince by leaving him. They can, however, still repay him by honoring him as the man who made everybody known.

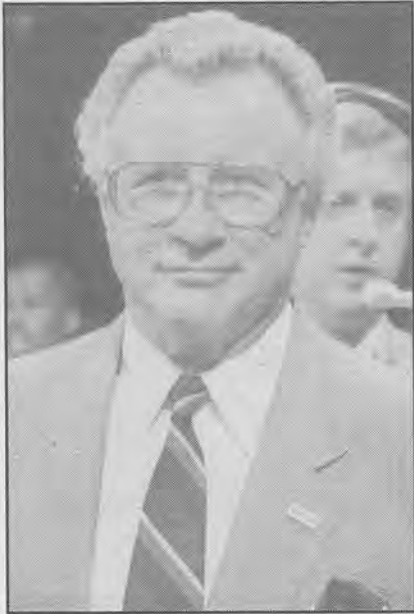
FELIX RODRIGUEZ
Ridgewood, NY □



Everyone in wrestling should pay tribute to Vince McMahon, according to reader Felix Rodriguez. He thinks the WWF head deserves credit for making wrestling so popular in the 1980s.

NO HOLDS BARRED

(Continued from page 8)



Even WCW Commissioner Nick Bockwinkel isn't sure how to handle this Flair situation. He thinks it might be best to allow Flair and Hogan to attempt to settle their differences in the ring ... again.

times during the 150-minute telecast. And in *Uncensored*, anything goes. *Why bother even having a wrestling ring*, I wondered as Dustin Rhodes and Blacktop Bully fought their match in the back of a truck and The Nasty Boys beat Harlem Heat back by the quickly vacated concession stands.

Even the strap match didn't mean anything. Either that or Flair's insanity is catching. Late in the bout, Hogan began ignoring Vader and wrestling Flair, whom he wasn't supposed to be wrestling. Hogan went so crazy that he tried to win the match by dragging Flair from corner-to-corner, the timekeeper went so crazy that he rang the bell after Hogan touched the fourth corner, and WCW officials went so crazy that they allowed the result to stand.

Hogan was the winner of his match against Vader when he defeated Flair.

Hey, it's *Uncensored*!

Also uncensored and unreasonable is Flair, who has spent most of the past six months convincing anyone

who would listen that he is content in retirement and has no plans to mount a full-time comeback. He reiterated those intentions even after signing to wrestle Antonio Inoki in North Korea and after telling Hogan at the *Uncensored* card that there was no way "I'm going to ride off into the sunset."

Somebody should tell Flair that nobody forced him to sign for that "loser-must-retire" match at Halloween Havoc. Maybe the ghosts found their way into his brain, which is too bad, because I've always admired Flair.

This time he has gone seriously nuts. There's no limit to how low he'll go to get under Hogan's skin; his words are those of a seriously deranged, unbalanced man. Flair no longer speaks in cool, complete sentences. He rages and screams and talks in fragmented sentences. I used to think Flair was the most composed wrestler in the world. Not anymore.

On the other hand, Eddie Ellner recently offered a Flair scenario that makes sense. The way Ellner sees it,

Flair hasn't really gone crazy, he just wants it to look that way. There's a very calculated method to Flair's madness. By whaling on Hogan and attacking him at every turn, Flair is trying to push Hogan to the point at which he invites him back into the sport. Flair signed a contract that supposedly prohibits him from wrestling in WCW, but if Hogan asks him to come back, there's nothing to keep Flair from doing so.

"That's not true," said WCW Commissioner Nick Bockwinkel when this scenario was posed to him. "The contract was between Flair and WCW. If Hogan wants to wrestle Flair, we can stop it, but would it be in our best interests to do so? If Hogan wanted Flair back, maybe it would be best to allow it to happen. Maybe it would be best for everyone if they were allowed to settle this long feud in the ring ... in one final match."

By time *Uncensored* ended, it looked as if Flair had pushed Hogan to the breaking-the-contract point. If that's the case, Flair isn't so crazy after all. □

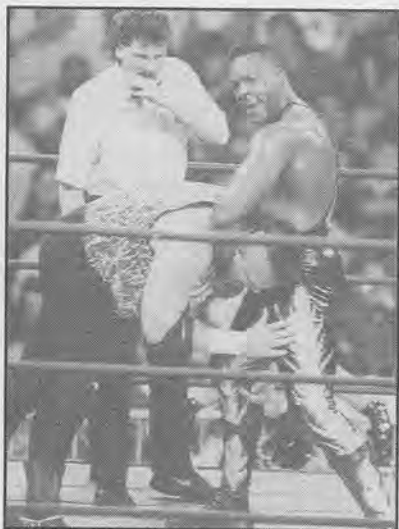


Flair also got involved in the Hogan-Vader strap match and did a nice job of infuriating the "Hulkster." Maybe it's all part of Flair's plan to get Hogan to ask him to come out of retirement.

CORRESPONDENTS REPORTS

(Continued from page 14)

The Rock 'n' Roll Express beat Al Snow & Unibomb by disqualification ... Boo Bradley defeated Chris Candido in a "loser-must-eat-dog-food" match ... Tracey Smothers defeated D-Lo Brown.



Booker T was in control of Jerry Sags for a while during a tag team match in South Carolina. Harlem Heat barely escaped with their WCW World tag team belts after beating the Nastys by reverse decision.

Columbia, SC (Correspondent—Seth Wyman): Once again, The Nasty Boys challenged World tag team champions Harlem Heat in a wild main event of a WCW card at the Township Auditorium. The two teams badmouthed each other on the house microphone before the bout began. But once the trash-talking was over, the two teams started their battle in the aisle leading to the ring.

Once all the men made it to ringside, the brawl continued, with all four using weapons such as chairs, a table, and the timekeeper's bell. At one point, Brian Knobs knocked Booker T over the railing and into the first row of the crowd. Somehow, the action eventually made it into the ring.

With the referee distracted, Knobs threw Booker T over the top rope as Stevie Ray held Jerry Sags, allowing Sherri Martel to hit him with her shoe. Sags ducked just in time, and Sherri slugged Ray instead. Sags covered Ray for the victory, and the Nastys appeared to win the World tag team title.

An alternate referee, however, came to the ring and told the original official about the over-the-top-rope infraction, and Harlem Heat was awarded the bout by reverse decision. Upset with the outcome, The Nasty Boys cleared Ray and Booker T from the ring, but not before giving Sherri's face a close encounter with Sags' arm pit.

In other bouts: Marcus Bagwell & The Patriot beat Paul Roma & Paul Orndorff ... Alex Wright beat Bobby Eaton ... Johnny B. Badd beat Lord Steven Regal ... Sting beat Avalanche ... WCW U.S. champ Big Van Vader defeated Hacksaw Duggan.

Philadelphia, PA (Correspondent—Bart Orkline): Cactus Jack was supposed to face The Sandman at a card at the ECW Arena, but since Sandman had suffered a concussion two weeks earlier, he wasn't able to wrestle. Therefore, Woman, Sandman's manager, brought a mystery wrestler to the ring in a giant box.

Out of the box popped D.C. Drake. Cactus and Drake battled at a furious pace, with Cactus getting the early advantage. After executing a series of DDTs, Cactus knocked Drake down with a final double-arm DDT and pinned him. At that point, Sandman and Woman stormed the ring, attacking Cactus. Jack



Cactus Jack wasn't planning to wrestle Terry Funk on a recent ECW card. Funk, however, made a surprise appearance after Cactus finished off D.C. Drake; Funk pummeled Cactus until Shane Douglas saved him.

threw Woman down and pounded Sandman, then shoved Sandman into the box and closed it.

A few minutes later, a man, presumably Sandman, popped back out, with a blanket over his head. Cactus pulled it off to reveal Terry Funk! Funk and Sandman then pummelled Cactus relentlessly. Several wrestlers came out to try to save Cactus, but none was successful. Finally, Shane Douglas appeared. Funk and Woman encouraged "The Franchise" to hit Cactus, but Douglas instead nailed Funk and Sandman and cleared the ring.

In other bouts: The Pit Bulls beat Chad Austin & Joel Hartgood ... Jason & Paul Lauria beat Hack Myers & Mikey Whipwreck ... 2 Cold Scorpio beat Hector Guerrero ... Axl Rotten pinned Ian Rotten in a "baseball-bat-on-a-pole" match ... ECW heavyweight champ Shane Douglas beat Marty Jannetty ... Dean Malenko & Chris Benoit beat ECW tag team champions Sabu & Tasmaniac to win the title. □

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						8241	UB40
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						8262	Van Halen
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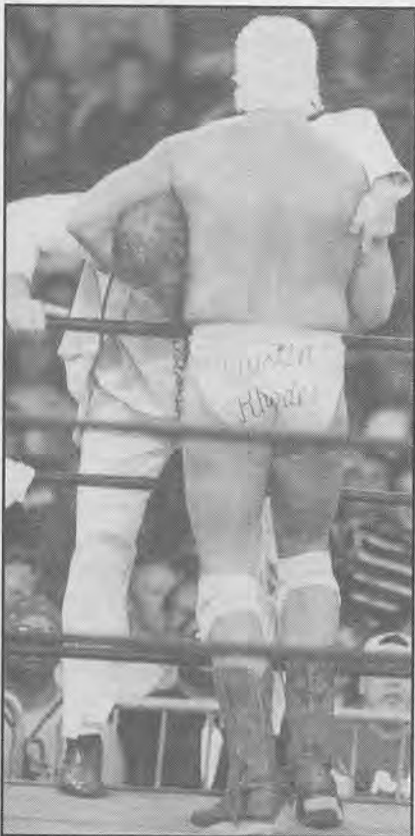
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YOU ASKED US

(Continued from page 16)

Anderson go after Dustin. What do you have against Dustin Rhodes?"—Eric Randolph, Atlanta, GA

A: "I don't think there's enough space in this magazine for me to answer that question, son," replied Parker. "My man Bunkhouse Buck ran into Dustin and that ugly father of his a few years back, and they



Col. Rob Parker admits he has made a serious effort to have his men destroy Dustin Rhodes. He just doesn't like the fact that Dustin is the kind of man who, he says, hides behind his father.

were quite disrespectful to him. I just provided Buck with a chance to get his revenge on those Rhodes boys, and, I must say, the man has done me proud. You mentioned Blacktop Bully, too. Well, he was just minding his own business in the front row at Center Stage one night when Dustin got in his face and stirred up trouble.

And Arn, well, Arn just doesn't like sissy boys, and that's what Dustin is. To answer your question, Eric, I don't like Dustin because he has no guts. Always hides behind his father. I've taken it upon myself to eliminate him ... for the good of professional wrestling! You should really thank me for that, son!"

Q: "Here's a question for Jerry Lawler: On your 'King's Court' segment recently, you introduced Shawn Michaels and his new bodyguard, Sid Vicious. How did you stop yourself from attacking that idiot Sid after all the trouble he has caused you in the USWA?"—Kyle George, Sarnia, Ontario

A: "If you had followed what went on in the USWA, Kyle," replied Lawler, "then you would know that the trouble between me and Sid is ancient history. But you must be a WWF fan who isn't smart enough to follow wrestling in other promotions. I wish Sid all the best with Shawn. Anything to put Diesel in his place. I don't know if anyone can trust Sid, but I like what he's doing now. Maybe he could help me beat up Bret Hart someday—not that I need help. But someone has to put a stop to 'The Hitman' and his racist views."

Q: "My question is for Bobby Blaze: I read about your victory for the Smoky Mountain title recently. It was amazing that you won three matches in one day. Did you ever imagine you'd win a title that prestigious?"—Scott Harding, Martinsville, VA

A: "Actually, yes," Blaze said. "I



Bobby Blaze wasn't surprised that he won a title as prestigious as the Smoky Mountain title. He was surprised how he won.

absolutely did. It came as a surprise to me that it happened that day, since I didn't know I had a title match with Jerry Lawler until about two minutes before it started, and I already wrestled one match that day. But when Tony Anthony got injured by Buddy Landell, I was glad to fill in. And it was incredible when I beat Lawler. It was maybe even more incredible when I beat Landell in the match right after that. That guy doesn't deserve to wear a title belt anywhere. I've worked real hard these last few years and have lots of confidence in myself. I have to admit I did think about quitting a couple of times. It just seemed like I could never get the big title matches I thought I deserved. Needless to say, I'm very glad I stuck with it." □

THE Wrestler

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August 1987/Stories include: Can-Ams, Luger vs. Nikita, Fantastics, Koko, Nord.
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January 1988/Stories include: Nikita-Taylor, Warriors, DiBiase-Duggan.
March 1988/Stories include: Hogan, Luger-Sting, Calgary, Demolition.
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January 1989/Stories include: Kevin Von, Rougeaus, Horsemen, Hogan.

February 1989/Stories include: Warriors, Ultimate-Hogan, Bigelow-Gordy.
May 1989/Stories include: Steamboat, Savage-Hogan, Dusty, Valentine.
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July 1989/Stories include: Warrior, Hogan-Bravo, Flair-Steamboat, Rhodes.
September 1989/Stories include: Flair-Funk, Piper, Demolition, Zeus.
October 1989/Stories include: Hogan & Beefcake vs. Zeus & Savage, Hyatt, Hayes.
November 1989/Stories include: Piper-Savage-Hogan, Dusty, Flair-Funk.
December 1989/Stories include: Muta-Sting, Andre-Ultimate, Windham.
January 1990/Stories include: Pillman, Hogan, Rich-Luger, Tully & Arn.
February 1990/Stories include: Sting-Luger, Gordy, Martel, Hogan-Brown.
March 1990/Stories include: Steiners, Flair-Funk, Hogan-Zeus, Survivors.
April 1990/Stories include: Hogan, Luger, Woman, Piper-Heenan, Travis.
June 1990/Stories include: Hogan, Rockers, Koloffs, Horsemen, Flair-Luger.
July 1990/Stories include: Poffo, Dusty-Savage, Luger-Flair, Doom, Blanchard.
August 1990/Stories include: Hogan-Warrior, Embry, Demolition, Doom.
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July 1991/Stories include: Flair-Fujinami, Nastys, Steiners, Savage.
August 1991/Stories include: Slaughter, Luger-Nikita, Hennig, Poffo.
September 1991/Stories include: Steiners vs. Sting & Luger, LOD, Cactus.
November 1991/Stories include: Luger, Steamboat, Piper, Global.
December 1991/Stories include: Flair-Hogan, Beverlys, Sting-Luger.
January 1992/Stories include: LOD, Badd, Hughes, Roberts, Gossett.
February 1992/Stories include: Flair, Simmons, Santana, Backlund.
March 1992/Stories include: Pillman, WWF title, Rude, Mountie-Hart.
April 1992/Stories include: Bearer, WCW magic, Hennig & Flair, LPWA.
May 1992/Stories include: Flair, Anderson & Eaton, Piper, Rhodes, USWA.
June 1992/Stories include: Flair-Hogan-Justice, Gilbert, Warrior, Vegas.
July 1992/Stories include: Rude, LOD, Madusa, Monsoon, Nurse Vanessa.
August 1992/Stories include: Warrior, Bunkhouse, Undertaker-Roberts, Sting.
September 1992/Stories include: LOD, Repo vs. Crush, Kleen, Freebirds.
October 1992/Stories include: Bulldog & Warrior, Lee, Martel-Tatanka, Austin.
November 1992/Stories include: Crush, Reed, Hennig, Sting, Rogers.
December 1992/Stories include: Hogan, Roberts, Simmons, Rock 'n' Rolls.

January 1993/Stories include: Ramon-Savage, Sting-Roberts, Disasters.
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July 1993/Stories include: Smith-Vader, Ramon, Rhodes, Tatanka, Bravo murder.
August 1993/Stories include: Hogan-Yokozuna, Jarrett, Vicious, Hart, Payne.
October 1993/Stories include: Vader & Vicious, SummerSlam lists, sHart-Lawler.
November 1993/Stories include: Rude-Flair, Hogan, Luger, Jannetty, Bodies, Power Bombs.
December 1993/Stories include: Luger, Sting & Flair, Fyech, Luna, Austin.
January 1994/Stories include: Hogan, Rude-Flair, Bagwell & Scorpio, Comette.
February 1994/Stories include: Vicious & Arn, Yokozuna, Vader-Cactus, steroids.
April 1994/Stories include: Hogan, Savage-Crush, Flair, Blayze, Adams, Boss.
May 1994/Stories include: Royal Rumble, Hulk minus bulk, Boss, Douglas-Sherri.
July 1994/Stories include: Flair vs. Hogan, DiBiase, Crockett, Douglas, WWF.
August 1994/Stories include: Cactus-Vader, M.O.M., Hart & Yokozuna, Badd.
October 1994/Stories include: Undertaker, Cactus, Scorpio-Sabu, Funk, Sheik.
November 1994/Stories include: Hogan, Owen, Bret, Badd, Lawler.
December 1994/Stories include: Hogan, Luger, Vicious, Austin, Bomb.
January 1995/Stories include: Holiday gifts, DiBiase, Badd, Backlund, PG-13.
February 1995/Stories include: Hogan, Steiners, Undertaker, Sabu, Honky Tonk.

THE WRESTLER

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THE **WRESTLER** SPOTLIGHTS

Every month, *THE WRESTLER* will comb through its extensive photo files and shine its spotlight on an outstanding wrestler, manager, or tag team. We'll present unforgettable highlights in the action-packed careers of the sport's greatest stars, culled from the most extensive photographic archives anywhere in the wrestling world!

JEFF JARRETT

"DOUBLE-J" JEFF Jarrett is one of the most enigmatic figures in wrestling today. Most WWF fans think the current Intercontinental champion is a loud, obnoxious rule-breaker, yet for most of his career, he was a loved and respected fan favorite in his home state of Tennessee.

Jarrett grew up in a wrestling environment. His father is former wrestler and current USWA promoter Jerry Jarrett. Jeff actually began his career as a referee before becoming making his debut as an active competitor in 1986.

He has held numerous regional championships throughout his career. He teamed with Billy Travis to win his first tag team title (the Mid-Southern championship) in November 1986. In 1987, he won the Mid-American title and later got shots at the AWA World title. Since then, he has won singles and tag team titles in several different areas, including World Class, the CWA, and the USWA.

And his wrestling accomplishments have not gone unnoticed by the fans. Jarrett was voted second runner-up in the 1989 *PWI* Most



Improved Wrestler of the Year balloting and third runner-up (with Robert Fuller) in the 1991 *PWI* Tag Team of the Year balloting. He was ranked 35th in the 1994 "*PWI* 500."

Jarrett has feuded with Eric Embry, Fuller, Doink the Clown, Eddie Gilbert, and many others during his 10-year career. After battling Fuller for many years, though, Jarrett teamed with him to win the USWA tag

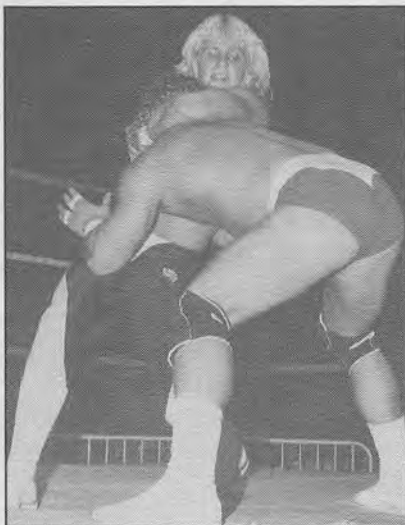
title in 1991.

"Double-J" continues to be a close friend and occasional partner with fellow Memphis star Jerry Lawler, though they have occasionally feuded over the years. Jarrett's career is, in fact, very reminiscent of Lawler's: They are both hated in the WWF, yet still revered in Memphis.

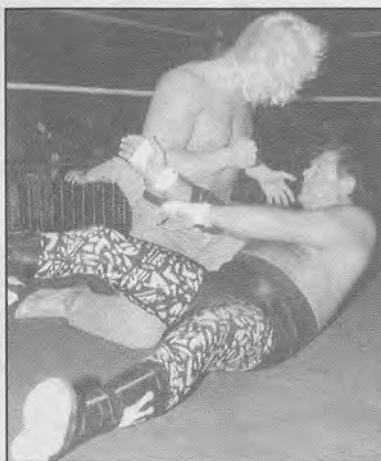
Several years ago, Jarrett challenged then-Intercontinental champ Bret Hart to a match in Memphis. The bout never came off, but soon afterward Jarrett entered the WWF, claiming to be the world's greatest wrestler, singer, and entertainer. He struggled through a few feuds before defeating Razor Ramon for the Intercontinental title at the 1995

Royal Rumble after getting some help from The Roadie, his personal assistant. Jarrett has come up short in recent matches against WWF World champ Diesel, however.

Love him or hate him, Jeff Jarrett has evolved into one of the top wrestlers in the world. He will certainly stay in the "Spotlight" for some time, just as long as his singing career doesn't get in the way.

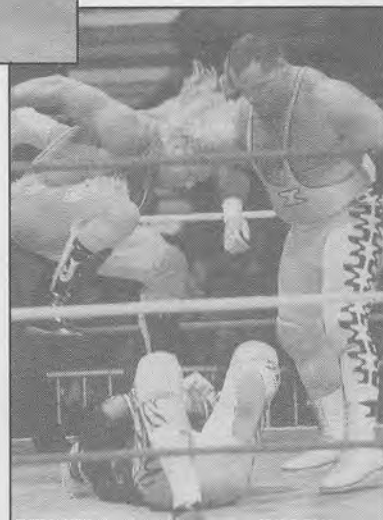


◀October 1987: Just a year after his pro debut, Jarrett received a surprise title match against AWA World champion Curt Hennig.

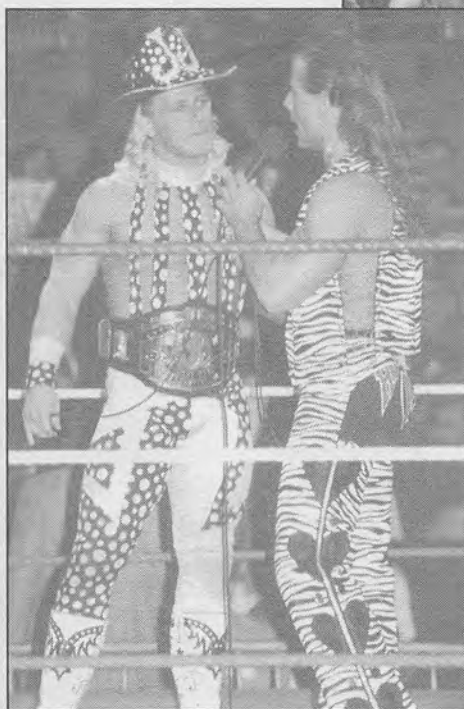


◀December 1993: When Jarrett and Lawler aren't teaming, you'll often find them waging war against each other. Their relationship has been one of the strangest in recent wrestling history.

► April 1991: A few years ago in Memphis, Jarrett didn't mind shedding a little blood to win a match. He won this one after bashing Eric Embry, one of his arch-rivals, with a metal can.

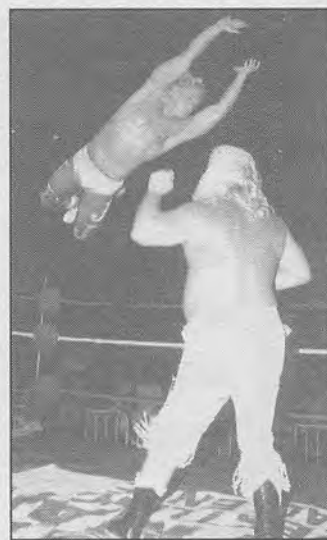


▲July 1994: "Double-J" changed when he came to the WWF. In addition to fighting his own battles against fan favorites, he helped Jim Neidhart pummel Bret Hart.



▲February 1995: Since entering the WWF, Jarrett has spent plenty of time telling everyone how great he is. He was happy to explain to Shawn Michaels how he beat Razor Ramon for the Intercontinental belt.

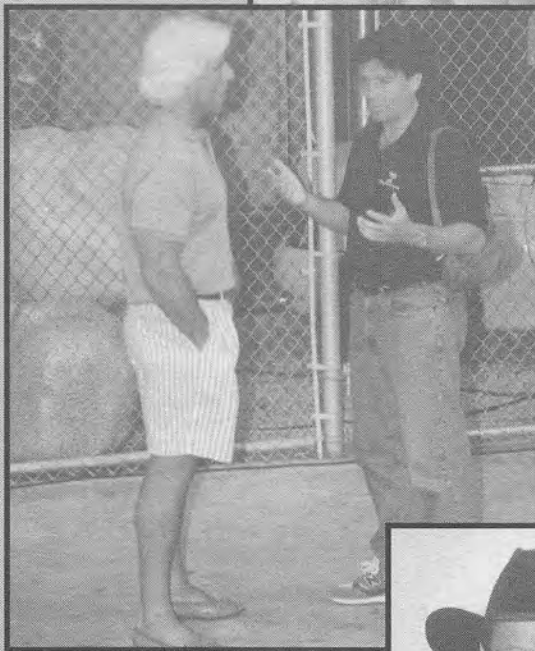
► June 1992: You don't see it often in the WWF, but Jarrett is a fine aerial wrestler, as he showed against The Moondogs. He and Jerry Lawler's feud with The Moondogs was PWI's Feud of the Year in 1992.



◀March 1993: Jarrett and Brian Christopher traded the USWA Southern title numerous times in 1993. Here, Jeff uses a sunset flip to win the belt for a fifth time.

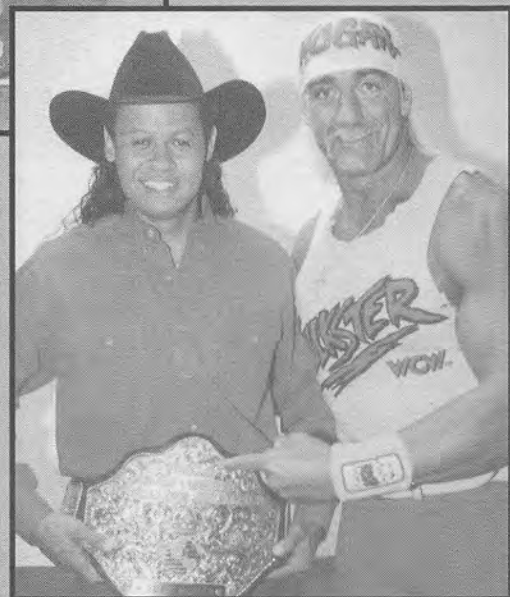
Beyond The Squared Circle

► Ah, what a difficult lives those wrestlers on the independent circuit lead. Johnny Gunn took time out of his busy schedule to pose with these lovely ladies at a national television convention. Poor guy!



► When the "Hulkster" says he takes on all challengers, he means it! Hulk Hogan offered country music superstar Neal McCoy a shot at the WCW World title when the two were on TNN's *Music City Tonight* recently; McCoy declined.

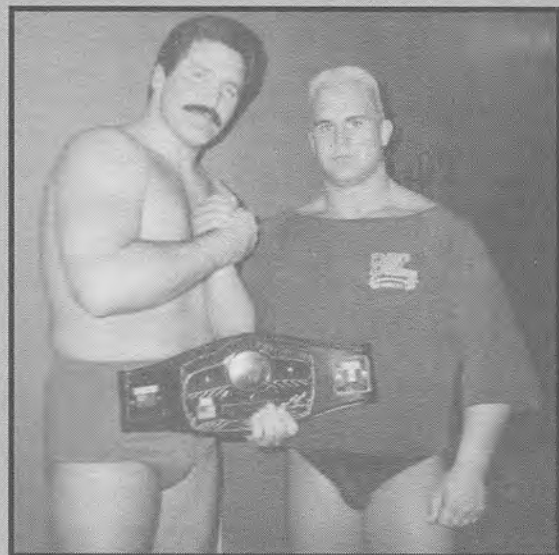
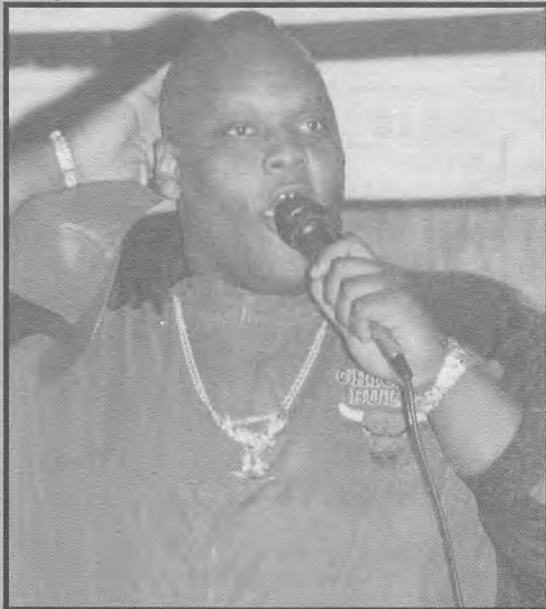
◀ Ric Flair will do anything to get reinstated as a wrestler in WCW—even corner WCW Executive Vice President Eric Bischoff before a TV taping in Orlando. Sorry, Ric, the answer is still no ... for now at least.



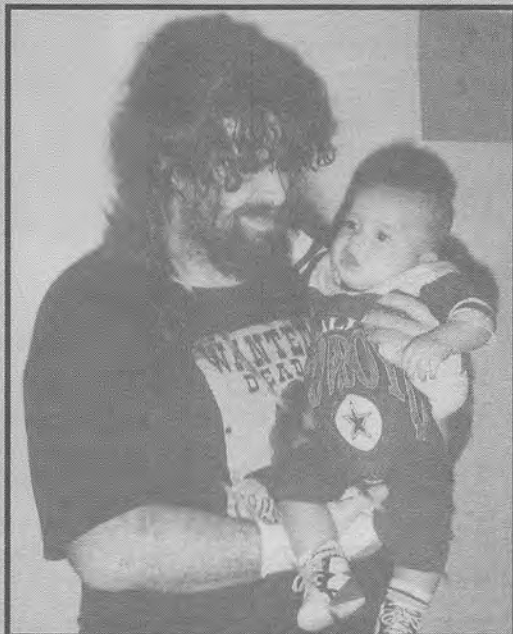
▼ Jim Cornette's new Heavenly Bodies? Why not? The manager is always looking for men to help him beat The Gangstas. Terry and Dory Funk Jr. are both over 50, but we're sure the former NWA World champions could still get the job done.



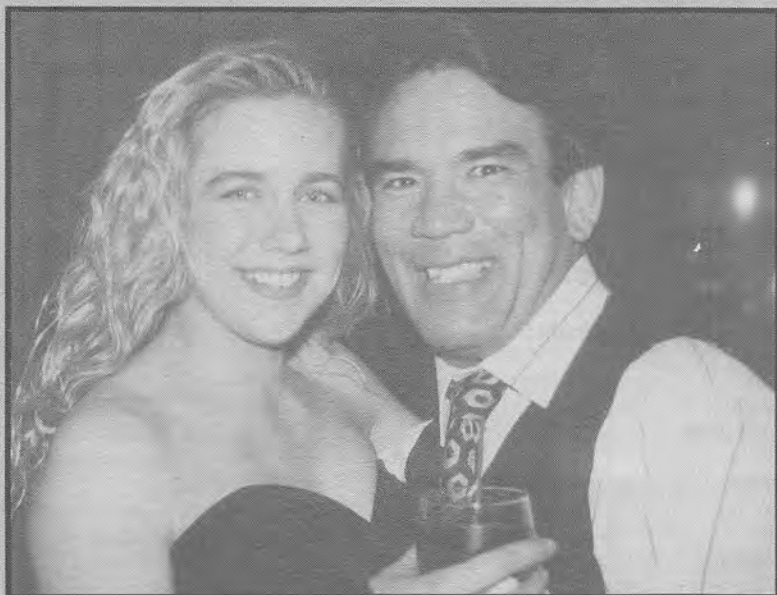
▼ Mabel doesn't do all his rapping in the wrestling ring. The Men on a Mission star has been known to drop by clubs and do a little singing. Now that he's a rulebreaker, he doesn't get such a great reception, though!



◀ Chris Candido a good sport? We didn't believe it until we saw this photo of him congratulating Dan Severn, who had beaten him for the NWA title hours earlier.



▲ "Now you just go to sleep while Daddy wrestles Sabu in a barbed-wire match. I'll be right back, honey!" That's what Cactus Jack probably said to his daughter, Noelle, before a recent card.

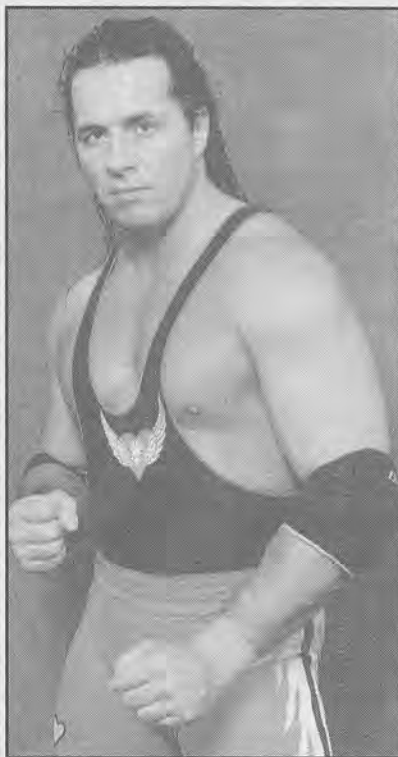


◀ Why is Rick Steamboat smiling? As promised, he has been spending more time with his family since he retired. Here he poses with his stepdaughter, Tanya.

Wrestler^{THE}

TOP 10

- 1 DIESEL**
356, Las Vegas, NV
(1) WWF World champion
- 2 THE UNDERTAKER**
328, parts unknown
(-) No. 2 contender: WWF World title
- 3 STING**
260, Venice Beach, CA
(6) No. 3 contender: WCW World title
- 4 HULK HOGAN**
275, Venice Beach, CA
(5) WCW World champion
- 5 RAZOR RAMON**
287, Miami, FL
(7) No. 3 contender: WWF World title
- 6 BUBBA ROGERS**
310, Cobb County, GA
(-) No. 4 contender: WCW World title
- 7 BIG VAN VADER**
450, Denver, CO
(2) U.S. heavyweight champion
- 8 JEFF JARRETT**
230, Nashville, TN
(3) WWF Intercontinental champion
- 9 BRET HART**
234, Calgary, Alberta
(4) No. 5 contender: WWF World title
- 10 ARN ANDERSON**
249, Minneapolis, MN
(10) WCW TV champion



Bret Hart

TAG TEAMS

- 1 HARLEM HEAT**
Combined weight: 550 pounds
(1) WCW World tag team champions
- 2 THE NASTY BOYS**
Combined weight: 585 pounds
(3) No. 1 contenders: WCW World tag title
- 3 THE SMOKIN' GUNNS**
Combined weight: 465 pounds
(2) WWF World tag team champions
- 4 ELI & JACOB BLU**
Combined weight: 517 pounds
(8) No. 1 contenders: WWF World tag title
- 5 THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS**
Combined weight: 453 pounds
(5) Smoky Mountain tag team champions
- 6 DIESEL & RAZOR RAMON**
Combined weight: 643
(-) No. 2 contenders: WWF World tag title
- 7 THE HEADSHRINKERS**
Combined weight: 520 pounds
(9) No. 3 contenders: WWF World tag title
- 8 MARCUS BAGWELL & THE PATRIOT**
Combined weight: 491 pounds
(4) No. 2 contenders: WCW World tag title
- 9 RANDY SAVAGE & STING**
Combined weight: 495 pounds
(6) No. 3 contenders: WCW World tag title
- 10 PG-13**
Combined weight: 471 pounds
(-) USWA tag team champions

WCW

World Champion:

HULK HOGAN

(C) 275, Venice Beach, CA

- 1—BIG VAN VADER**
(1) 450, Denver, CO
- 2—ARN ANDERSON**
(4) 249, Minneapolis, MN
- 3—STING**
(5) 260, Venice Beach, CA
- 4—BUBBA ROGERS**
(9) 310, Cobb County, GA
- 5—JOHNNY B. BADD**
(3) 235, Macon, GA
- 6—RANDY SAVAGE**
(6) 237, Sarasota, FL
- 7—HACKSAW DUGGAN**
(2) 280, Glens Falls, NY
- 8—ALEX WRIGHT**
(8) 222, Berlin, Germany
- 9—MENG**
(-) 294, Tonga
- 10—AVALANCHE**
(10) 502, Montreal, Quebec

WWF

World Champion:

DIESEL

(C) 356, Las Vegas, NV

- 1—JEFF JARRETT**
(1) 230, Nashville, TN
- 2—THE UNDERTAKER**
(4) 328, parts unknown
- 3—RAZOR RAMON**
(6) 287, Miami, FL
- 4—SHAWN MICHAELS**
(7) 234, San Antonio, TX
- 5—BRET HART**
(2) 234, Calgary, Alberta
- 6—LEX LUGER**
(9) 265, Chicago, IL
- 7—JERRY LAWLER**
(-) 234, Memphis, TN
- 8—BAM BAM BIGELOW**
(3) 368, Mt. Laurel, NJ
- 9—BOB BACKLUND**
(-) 234, Princeton, MN
- 10—HAKUSHI**
(10) 231, Tokyo, Japan

USWA

USWA Champion:

BILL DUNDEE

(C) 219, Melbourne, Australia

- 1—BRIAN CHRISTOPHER**
(1) 230, Memphis, TN
- 2—GORGEOUS GEORGE III**
(4) 221, Charlotte, NC
- 3—SPELLBINDER**
(3) 246, parts unknown
- 4—JERRY LAWLER**
(2) 234, Memphis, TN
- 5—REGGIE B. FINE**
(10) 215, Memphis, TN
- 6—JACK HAMMER**
(-) 325, Allentown, PA
- 7—CRUSHER BONES**
(5) 269, Memphis, TN
- 8—SCOTT STUDD**
(9) 224, Atlanta, GA
- 9—TOMMY RICH**
(7) 248, Hendersonville, TN
- 10—DOUG BASHAM**
(8) 228, Memphis, TN

ECW

ECW Champion:

SHANE DOUGLAS

(C) 223, Pittsburgh, PA

- 1—TOMMY DREAMER**
(10) 245, Yonkers, NY
- 2—SABU**
(3) 220, Bombay
- 3—CACTUS JACK**
(4) 277, Truth or Consequences, NM
- 4—TERRY FUNK**
(-) 247, Amarillo, TX
- 5—2 COLD SCORPIO**
(8) 222, Denver, CO
- 6—CHRIS BENOIT**
(6) 218, Edmonton, Alberta
- 7—DEAN MALENKO**
(5) 216, Tampa, FL
- 8—THE SANDMAN**
(-) 244, Philadelphia, PA
- 9—911**
(-) 310, parts unknown
- 10—TASMANIAC**
(9) 221, Tasmania

OFFICIAL RATINGS

Top 10 and Tag Team ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board. Most Popular and Most Hated ratings are based on nationwide telephone and arena surveys of wrestling fans and on the volume and character of mail that comes to our offices. All other ratings are based on the official current positions of challengers to the top title in each category; certain titleholders receive an automatic spot in the ratings. The number in parentheses indicates a wrestler's position in that category last issue; (-) indicates that the wrestler was not rated in that category last issue. while (C) indicates the wrestler was champion in that category last issue.

MOST POPULAR

- 1 HULK HOGAN**
275, Venice Beach, CA
Last issue: No. 2 Most Popular
- 2 RAZOR RAMON**
287, Miami, FL
Last issue: No. 4 Most Popular
- 3 RANDY SAVAGE**
237, Sarasota, FL
Last issue: No. 5 Most Popular
- 4 STING**
260, Venice Beach, CA
Last issue: No. 1 Most Popular
- 5 BRET HART**
234, Calgary, Alberta
Last issue: No. 6 Most Popular
- 6 DIESEL**
356, Las Vegas, NV
Last issue: No. 3 Most Popular
- 7 THE UNDERTAKER**
328, parts unknown
Last issue: No. 8 Most Popular
- 8 JOHNNY B. BADD**
235, Macon, GA
Last issue: unrated
- 9 LEX LUGER**
265, Chicago, IL
Last issue: No. 9 Most Popular
- 10 DAVEY BOY SMITH**
245, Leeds, England
Last issue: No. 7 Most Popular

MOST HATED

- 1 BIG VAN VADER**
450, Denver, CO
Last issue: No. 1 Most Hated
- 2 BOB BACKLUND**
234, Princeton, MN
Last issue: No. 4 Most Hated
- 3 JEFF JARRETT**
230, Nashville, TN
Last issue: No. 6 Most Hated
- 4 JERRY LAWLER**
234, Memphis, TN
Last issue: No. 5 Most Hated
- 5 SID VICIOUS**
318, West Memphis, AR
Last issue: No. 10 Most Hated
- 6 SHAWN MICHAELS**
234, San Antonio, TX
Last issue: No. 2 Most Hated
- 7 BUDDY LANDELL**
236, Los Angeles, CA
Last issue: unrated
- 8 BUBBA ROGERS**
310, Cobb County, GA
Last issue: unrated
- 9 OWEN HART**
227, Calgary, Alberta
Last issue: No. 3 Most Hated
- 10 TATANKA**
250, Pembroke, NC
Last issue: No. 8 Most Hated

For period ended March 29, 1995

CUMULATIVE RATINGS

These ratings are based on the past 10 issues of this magazine. We have examined our ratings for each of these issues in our Top 10 and Tag Team categories only, and assigned each position a point value: 10 points for a first-place rating, nine for second place, and so on. The point values for all wrestlers in the past 10 issues have been compiled, with a possible maximum of 100 points. Each issue we'll present the top five finishers in each category. While our regular ratings reflect the past month, these cumulative ratings give an indication of wider trends in the sport.

SINGLES

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------|
| 1—HULK HOGAN | 80 points |
| 2—DIESEL | 63 points |
| 3—BRET HART | 59 points |
| 4—RAZOR RAMON | 54 points |
| 5—STING | 44 points |

TAG TEAMS

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1—THE NASTY BOYS | 82 points |
| 2—MARCUS BAGWELL & THE PATRIOT | 66 points |
| 3—THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS | 46 points |
| 4—HARLEM HEAT | 43 points |
| 5—PAUL ORNDORFF & PAUL ROMA | 42 points |

SMOKY MOUNTAIN

Smoky Mountain Champion:

BOBBY BLAZE

(C) 222, Charlotte, NC

- 1—BUDDY LANDELL**
(2) 236, Los Angeles, CA
- 2—TRACEY SMOTHERS**
(5) 227, Atlanta, GA
- 3—TONY ANTHONY**
(1) 235, Bucksport, TN
- 4—KILLER KYLE**
(-) 303, Atlanta, GA
- 5—BOO BRADLEY**
(3) 310, parts unknown
- 6—AL SNOW**
(7) 232, Lima, OH
- 7—D-LO BROWN**
(6) 305, Bronx, NY
- 8—UNIBOMB**
(8) 345, parts unknown
- 9—BOB ARMSTRONG**
(-) 227, Marietta, GA
- 10—ROBERT GIBSON**
(-) 225, Pensacola, FL

INTERNATIONAL

Triple Crown Champion:

STAN HANSEN

(7) 322, Borger, TX

- 1—MITSU HARU MISAWA**
(2) 247, Saitama, Japan
- 2—STEVE WILLIAMS**
(1) 265, Norman, OK
- 3—BIG VAN VADER**
(4) 450, Denver, CO
- 4—TOSHI AKI KAWADA**
(C) 245, Tizhigi, Japan
- 5—SHINYA HASHIMOTO**
(3) 287, Gisu, Japan
- 6—PERRO AGUAYO**
(9) 215, Zacatecas, Mexico
- 7—GARY ALBRIGHT**
(10) 340, Billings, MT
- 8—KENTA KOBASHI**
(5) 261, Tokyo, Japan
- 9—KONNAN**
(-) 237, Mexico City, Mexico
- 10—NOBUHIKO TAKADA**
(6) 231, Yokohama, Japan

AAA: AAA Champion—Perry Aguayo; 1—Octagon; 2—Konnan; 3—El Hijo Del Santo; 4—Cien Caras; 5—La Parka; 6—Pscosis; 7—Eddy Guerrero; 8—Key Mysterio Jr.; 9—Blue Panther; 10—Miguel Perez Jr..

ACW: ACW Champion—T. Rantula; 1—Tito Santana; 2—Shane Douglas; 3—Rick Martel; 4—2 Cold Scorpio; 5—Cactus Jack; 6—Tasmaniac; 7—Ron Simmons; 8—Tommy Dreamer; 9—Johnny Gunn; 10—Glenn Osbourne.

IWCCW: IWCCW Champion—Greg Valentine; 1—Tito Santana; 2—Rick Martel; 3—Scott Putski; 4—Bastion Booger; 5—Koko B. Ware; 6—Tony Atlas; 7—Johnny Gunn; 8—Jimmy Snuka; 9—Joe Savoldi; 10—Metal Maniac.

MTW: MTW Champion—Bruiser Bedlam; 1—Cactus Jack; 2—Al Snow; 3—Johnny Paradise; 4—Chris Carter; 5—Ray Roberts; 6—Sean Casey; 7—J.T. Lightning; 8—Machine Gun Kelly; 9—Rock Stevens; 10—Dan Severn.

PWA: PWA Champion—The Hater; 1—Jerry Lynn; 2—Charlie Norris; 3—Randy Gusto; 4—Jesse Hennig; 5—Punisher; 6—Horace the Lunatic; 7—Dan Jester; 8—Tommy Ferrara; 9—Blake Beverly; 10—Derrick Dukes.

PWF: PWF Champion—Terry Austin; 1—Italian Stallion; 2—Russian Assassin II; 3—Star Ryder; 4—Chris Hamrick; 5—Austin Steele; 6—Masked Maniac; 7—Tyronne Knox; 8—Flaming Youth; 9—Black Scorpion; 10—Cruel Connection II.

WWA: WWA Champion—Nikolai Volkoff; 1—Frank Finnegan; 2—Gus the Greek; 3—Akita Kaos; 4—Ed Atlas; 5—East L.A.; 6—Jim McPherson; 7—John Ratten; 8—Paul White; 9—Devon Storm; 10—Jason Headings.

WWWA: WWWA Champion—Jack Hammer; 1—Derrick Domino; 2—Glenn Osbourne; 3—Ace Darling; 4—Super Nova; 5—Mr. Motion; 6—Harley Lewis; 7—Bobby Piper; 8—Mad Russian; 9—The Zombie; 10—Johnny Rebel.

RATINGS ANALYSIS

Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating over 200 wrestlers in 20 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans



Diesel

Title vs. title. The rich get richer (or at least try to), and the poor have to sit by and wait patiently for their turn. That's what seems to be happening in a lot of wrestling federations lately. Allow us to explain:

Since **Big Van Vader** won the WCW U.S. title from **Hacksaw Duggan** at Starrcade last December, he has been busy defending it against ... well, no one. Actually, that's not entirely

true. Vader has granted Duggan a series of rematches and has taken the occasional match against WCW mid-carders. He has, however, spent the majority of his time since the last holiday season doing anything and everything in his power to destroy **Hulk Hogan**, who just happens to be the WCW World champion. It's hard to blame Vader; he's a three-time former WCW World champion, and he *hates* to settle for second-best in anything he does.

The situation in the WWF is similar, yet different. **Diesel**, who was still the World champ as of press time, told everyone from the day he won the title from **Bob Backlund** that he would be a fighting champion.

He made good on that promise, defending against Backlund, **Bret Hart**, **Bam Bam Bigelow**, **King Kong Bundy**, **Owen Hart**, and others. And that was just in the first few months of his reign.

By the time 1995 started, though, **Jeff Jarrett** started to get his share of World title shots. Unfortunately for "Double-J," not even the interference of **The Roadie** could help him against "Big Daddy Cool." He lost every match, most times after being unceremoniously power-bombed in the center of the ring.

When Jarrett won the Intercontinental title from **Razor Ramon** at the 1995 Royal Rumble in January, he got even more World title shots. Diesel continued to power-bomb him and pin him in match after match. Jarrett would occasionally defend *his* title against Ramon or another worthy contender, but for the most part, he concentrated on winning the World title.

Finally, in the USWA, even *stranger* things are going on. Most wrestlers who win either the Southern or heavyweight title in that federation have a hard time holding on to it for more than two or three weeks at a time. **Sid Vicious** amazed a lot of people by keeping the USWA heavyweight belt from July 1994 until February

1995. Of course, he did have to cheat a lot to do so.

But when **Bill Dundee** won that belt from **Jerry Lawler** on February 25 in Memphis, he immediately decided it was in his best interests to resume his feud with **Brian Christopher**, who just happened to have won the Southern title a few weeks earlier.

Since then, Dundee and Christopher have been going at it in bullwhip matches and all kinds of other odd stipulation bouts. It made for exciting action, as the two split their matches pretty evenly. Problem was that for most of the contests, neither man's title was on the line. Dundee put the heavyweight title up for grabs a few times, and defended the belt against a few other contenders—such as Lawler and **Gorgeous George III**. The Southern belt, on the other hand, wasn't defended at all during a three-week span, which is practically an eternity in the USWA.

In a story in the summer 1995 issue of *Wrestle America*, we suggested that the stakes must be changed in title vs. title matches in the WWF. Now we're wondering if the same shouldn't be true in all federations. If a world champion beats an Intercontinental or U.S. champion, maybe the loser should be forced to relinquish his belt and a tournament should be held to crown a new champion. Or maybe there should be a limit on title vs. title matches, especially if one of the titleholders is beaten cleanly and decisively. We think there should be, because fans who pay to see live wrestling shouldn't be deprived of seeing as many title bouts as possible.

Most federations have plenty of wrestlers who are worthy of title shots; we think those title shots should be more evenly distributed. What kind of message is sent to someone like **Lex Luger** when he beats **Tatanka** in match after match, yet he can't get a shot at the World or Intercontinental belts because both champions are busy battling each other?

We've made our point! We think federations need to rethink their positions on title vs. title matches. How do you feel about it? If you have any comments about this issue or anything else concerning our ratings, please feel free to write to us. Write to: "Ratings Analysis," c/o THE WRESTLER, Box 1148, Fort Washington, PA 19034.



Sid Vicious

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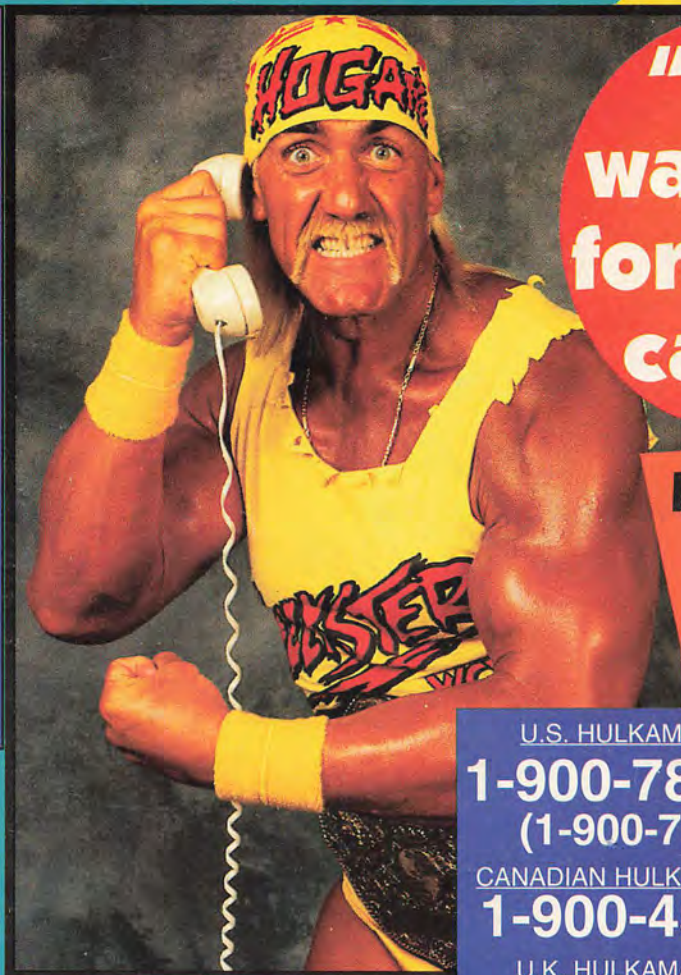
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